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Israel, Germany clash today

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Har Homa approval today

Prince Hassan puts off visit

By DAVID HAKOVSKY and LIAT COLLINS

The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem, headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is today expected to approve the construction of an estimated 2,600 units in the Har Homa neighborhood in southeastern Jerusalem, and grant permits for 3,500 units for Arabs in 10 existing neighborhoods.

Netanyahu appealed to Palestinians yesterday not to resort to violence in reaction to the decision. "Whoever wants the peace process to continue will understand that violence will achieve nothing," he said.

However, Palestinians spoke angrily yesterday. "We are telling them [Israel]: You are playing with fire," Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian official in Jerusalem, said. "There will be an explosion."

In a separate interview with Army Radio, Hussein said, "I cannot prophesy but I can sense the winds...the mood of the people is the same as before the tunnel." Palestinian rioting after Israel opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit last September triggered clashes that claimed 61 Palestinian and 15 Israeli lives.

In a first reaction to the anticipated decision, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan informed Israel yesterday that he was again postponing a visit here, which was to begin on Saturday evening. He postponed a visit last fall after the tunnel clashes.

While Israel has passed messages to the Palestinian Authority about its plans for Har Homa, Netanyahu does not want to do anything which would be perceived as "asking for permission" to build there.

As for other preparations for today's decision, Netanyahu has been briefed by General Security Service head Ami Ayalon on potential fallout. Ayalon has warned in cabinet meetings that violence could follow a decision to build in Har Homa. Sources say security officials have notified Netanyahu in advance about likely "problematic elements" who will seek to incite the Palestinian street in response to the decision.

After appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Netanyahu told reporters that Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert would present the committee today with the plan.

"I advise everybody to cool the rhetoric and keep level heads," the premier said. "We are planning on building in communities throughout Jerusalem, including the Arab communities. Therefore I think this entire rhetorical escalation is unfounded, as I would think that the attempts to foment violence would be misplaced because it could torpedo the entire peace process. The responsibility of leaders is to cool passions, not to inflame them."

"I have said time and time again that we are committed to building throughout all parts of Jerusalem including Har Homa, but I have also said that I...as opposed to previous governments... intend to build equally

for the needs of Arabs and Jews."

Netanyahu noted the housing shortage in Jerusalem. "Young people are leaving Jerusalem because they have no place to go [here] and this is true also of the Arabs and the Jews. What I intend to do is to change that, and build for both Arabs and Jews. I think this will ameliorate the situation. It's good for everyone."

He said the decision to go ahead with the project would be taken after consulting the security establishment.

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu raised the matter of Har Homa during his talks with Jordan's King Hussein on Sunday and during his recent trip to Washington, but stressed he had not asked for US permission to build in

Palestinians protest at Har Homa, Page 3

Jerusalem "because Israel" is sovereign in Jerusalem and can act according to its needs there.

Netanyahu told the MKs that the Palestinians and whole world understand that since the change in government there has been a change in Israel's approach regarding Jerusalem and that Israel would refuse to return to the 1967 borders or agree to a Palestinian state.

Committee chairman Uzi Lapidot said in response: "Even in this room there are those who doubt that — including me." During the meeting, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid warned that the project would end up sparking a round of violence like that which followed the opening of the tunnel exit. National Religious Party faction head Hanan Portat accused Sarid of "inciting the Arabs."

Members of the Democratic Arab Party and the parliamentary caucus for east Jerusalem are scheduled to meet today in the Knesset with Hussein, who holds the PA's Jerusalem portfolio, and the PA's Ziad Abu Zayyad, to discuss Israel's settlement policy and ways of preventing the project.

MK Talib al-Sanaa (DAP), who initiated the meeting, said building on Har Homa would "cause the peace process to blow up and set off a new cycle of bloodshed and a new intifada." He said the prime minister would bear the full responsibility "for the results of this absurd decision."

In New York, the United Nations Security Council expressed concern yesterday over Israel's policies in east Jerusalem and urged restraint so as not to undo the Middle East peace process, council president Njuguna Mahugu of Kenya said.

"I was requested to invite the permanent representative of Israel to convey this concern and solicit his views on how Israel intends to proceed," he added.

There are hints that Israel has tentatively approached the US and inquired if the US would veto a Security Council resolution if the issue is brought to a vote in the Security Council.

Weizman in Britain

President Ezer Weizman was greeted with pomp and ceremony in London yesterday, day one of the first state visit to Britain by an Israeli president.

Full story, Page 12

IDF kills 1 in Hizmeh clash

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The security forces are bracing for Palestinian violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following last night's clashes in the village of Hizmeh, where IDF soldiers reportedly disguised as Arabs killed one man and wounded three during an apparent abortive arrest raid.

The IDF rushed a large number of forces to the village, about a kilometer north of Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood, following the shooting. But news of the death sparked even more rioting by stone-throwing Palestinians. Troops responded with rubber bullets, tear gas and shock grenades.

The army declared the region a closed military zone, banning entry by either Israelis or Palestinians and by late last night the tensions had subsided. Settlers have frequently complained of stone-throwing from the village.

Last night's clashes came at an already tense time in the territories in response to the plans to launch construction of the Har Homa neighborhood in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to announce the beginning of the project today, a step some security sources said could trigger violence.

The situation is so precarious that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai instructed OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and the newly appointed coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Or, to inform their respective Palestinian Authority counterparts that the shooting was by soldiers and not Jewish settlers, and that the IDF was intensively investigating the incident. Mordechai also instructed the generals to update the Palestinians on the results of the inquiry.

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said last night that there will be no changes in the IDF presence in the territories. "I hope and believe there will be no change," Israel Radio quoted him as saying.

IDF soldiers and border policemen are to deploy today at Har Homa to quell any unrest.

Yesterday's incident began at around 5 p.m., when residents detected soldiers from the elite Duvdevan unit moving around the outskirts of the village. Some witnesses said the soldiers were dressed



Border policemen arrest a Palestinian youth during clashes in Hizmeh, near Jerusalem, yesterday. (AP)

in civilian clothes, while others said they wore uniforms and tried to arrest someone. Palestinians explained that they thought the soldiers were settlers.

"They were there on operational duty," said Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir, commander of IDF forces in the West Bank. "We do not know the exact number of shooters who actually entered the city... This is a spe-

cial unit. We do not know if the guy they went after is a fugitive or not."

At one point, villagers started stoning the soldiers and, according to the IDF, the soldiers, believed to have been no more than three, opened fire when they found themselves in a life-threatening situation.

Initial reports said the shooting was carried out by settlers, since the gunmen wore civilian clothes. But

the army quickly acknowledged that it was soldiers that had opened fire and top Palestinian Authority officials were informed of this.

Another witness told television reporters that three men dressed in civilian clothes who spoke Hebrew and Arabic entered a house in the village and forced a man at gunpoint to go with them.

"They took the man behind the

house," the witness said, adding that attempts by local residents to intervene proved fruitless. "We were told to go away," he said.

Mohammed Abdel Aziz Ibn Halawi, 56, was hit by the soldiers' gunfire and arrived dead at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

Magen David Adom medic Dror Eini, 35, arrived at the scene after receiving a call that shots had been fired.

"When we arrived we saw a man lying on the main road surrounded by IDF troops and there was also an Arab ambulance," he said, adding that Ibn Halawi had no pulse. "The only wound we found was a gunshot wound in the knee," he said.

The villagers carried the mortally wounded man to the IDF roadblock for evacuation. According to some witnesses, border policemen refused to intervene.

Hadassah Hospital spokesman Yossi Shuvai said Ibn Halawi was dead on arrival. "The only wound we could see was a gunshot in the back of his knee, which is hard to believe was the cause of his death," Shuvai said. He said only an autopsy could determine the cause of death, but that one could only be done with the family's approval.

Ali Muthick, 44, was taken to Mokassas Hospital in eastern Jerusalem suffering from a gunshot wound in the left leg. He was later discharged, said a hospital nurse.

Two other Hizmeh residents were transferred to Ramallah Hospital. According to a doctor at the hospital, Abir Mohammed Abdel Aziz, 18, suffered from shock, and her husband, Hamza Naif Mulbarak, 19, had a fractured left elbow.

Speaking at the IDF roadblock outside of Hizmeh, Ophir said that in Hizmeh the Palestinian Authority is responsible for civil affairs, but Israel is ultimately responsible for security. The IDF inquiry will try to determine whether the soldiers were justified in opening fire.

Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub was brought to the area and briefed on the incident. Palestinian police helped to restore quiet.

"It's shocking. What happened is a black mark and a shame for the Israeli government and for Israel," Rajoub said. Palestinians have reported army raids on villages outside Jerusalem in recent weeks in a bid to find residents with Jerusalem ID cards, which are then confiscated.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Police seize documents from Bar-On's office

BAR-ON

MICHAEL YUDELMAN and Jerusalem Post Staff

Police raided lawyer Roni Bar-On's office yesterday and seized documents connected to the investigation into whether any deal was made between him and anyone else to have him appointed attorney-general, Channel 1 reported last night.

However, Bar-On insisted the police had arranged to pick up the documents, and that it had nothing to do with the current investigation.

Several of the individuals already questioned by police in the Bar-On investigation, including Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman are to be questioned again today or tomorrow. Some of them will be questioned under caution.

Police and the State Attorney's Office believe it will be necessary to question Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again, about new material that has been gathered since he was questioned under caution last week, on suspicion of breach of trust.

Barring unforeseen developments, the investigators are to begin reviewing the material they have gathered to determine if there is enough evidence to indicate that crimes were committed. Both the police and the State Attorney's

Office believe there is enough evidence to warrant filing indictments against some of those involved.

Netanyahu refused to relate to the Bar-On affair yesterday but said he had full confidence in Hanegbi. "I value him and we work together fully," he told parliamentary reporters, as he left a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "When the time comes I'll have something to say about the affair — a lot," he added.

"I have to tell you I chuckle sometimes at the things that I read in the newspapers. Chuckle is an understatement," Netanyahu said. Asked whether the affair was not affecting the government's functioning, he said: "I'm acting freely and responsibly, as the position of prime minister of Israel warrants."

Both Netanyahu and Hanegbi presented a facade of "business as usual," in an attempt to bridge the widening rift between them, resulting from the contradictory evidence they reportedly gave the police. In what seemed like a respite in the war of political sur-

vival, the two shook hands and exchanged pleasantries.

But a day earlier, Netanyahu fingered Hanegbi as the one to blame

Bar association head raps Justice Barak, Page 2

for the abortive appointment of Bar-On. Netanyahu's personal attorney, Ya'acov Weinroth, said Hanegbi had misled Netanyahu about Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's position vis-a-vis Bar-On's appointment. Barak objected to the appointment, but Hanegbi failed to report this to Netanyahu, Weinroth said.

On the contrary, "He told Netanyahu and then the cabinet, that Bar-On's appointment was good, reasonable and decided on after a conversation with Barak."

The prime minister understood from this "that Barak did not express opposition to the appointment," said Weinroth, suggesting

that perhaps Hanegbi did not mislead Netanyahu deliberately, but merely misunderstood what Barak said to him.

Hanegbi, on the other hand, says he reported all the details to Netanyahu accurately and that the prime minister was much more involved in the Bar-On affair than he himself was.

Weinroth warned his client the rumor that Hanegbi had turned state's evidence was highly unlikely, and may be disinformation

intended to trap him, and advised him to ignore it.

In another offshoot of the affair, Channel 1 reported coordinated steps to drag Barak into the affair. Israel Bar Association Chairman Dror Huter-Yishai criticized Barak for "interfering" in the appointment of the attorney-general, while Bar-On and MK Aryeh Deri each spread rumors that Barak knew of the appointment in advance.

Liav Collins contributed to this report.

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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian groups said split over policy

A radical Palestinian alliance of 10 Islamic and secular factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal has split over policy, Palestinian officials said yesterday.

They said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh, were refusing to participate in meetings.

Palestinians said the PFLP had been criticized for attending last year's Palestinian National Council meeting in the Gaza Strip. The DFLP was attacked for proposing talks with all Palestinian factions, including the Palestinian Authority. *Reuters*

Boy run over by school bus

A 10-year-old boy was hit and killed by a bus that was taking him home from school near Arad yesterday.

The accident occurred on the road between the Arad Junction and Tel Arad, about 5 kilometers north of the city. The bus, from the Beduin town Kuseifa, stopped to let children off, but when it started to move again, it ran over the boy.

An ambulance arrived at the scene, but doctors pronounced the boy dead. The bus driver was detained by police.

In Ramat Gan, a pedestrian was gravely injured when he was hit by a car while crossing the street. Police said the pedestrian apparently ran out into the middle of the street. *Itim*

Two lightly hurt in Galgalatz 'copter landing

A helicopter used by Army Radio's Galgalatz station to do traffic reports made an emergency landing between two homes in Rishpon yesterday. The pilot and Galgalatz reporter Ron Yanai were lightly injured.

"We were in the middle of broadcasting and suddenly we began to lose altitude," Yanai said. "Then we found ourselves on the ground." *Itim*

Weinroth steps onto center stage

By HERB KEINON

The Bar-On affair has, in the space of a month, thrust a number of new personalities into the limelight.

First and foremost is attorney Roni Bar-On himself. Another is David Appel, the businessman Likud activist who allegedly brought Bar-On to the attention of Shas MK Aryeh Deri. And the personality to most recently step onto center stage is Ya'acov Weinroth.

On Friday, Weinroth was pretty much unknown outside legal circles. By yesterday the 49-year-old lawyer - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's newly appointed personal counsel - was a veritable household name. At every turn he was on radio or television speaking on the prime minister's behalf.

Weinroth came out of relative obscurity punching, charging that Netanyahu is not to be blamed for the whole affair, since he supported the appointment after being told by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi that he was backed by Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak.

The not-too-subtle message: It was Hanegbi's fault.

Weinroth was reportedly one of the names mentioned in recent weeks as the candidate to fill the empty "religious seat" on the Supreme Court, recently vacated by Zvi Tal.

His name was also mentioned in recent months as a candidate for attorney-general.

Weinroth, who is religious, was born in Germany, and came here with his family at age two. He attended religious schools and the Ponevezh Yeshiva in Bnei Brak. After the Six Day War he served in a Nahal unit in the IDF. Weinroth studied law at Tel Aviv University.

He is considered an expert on white-collar crime. Among his high-profile clients have been Rafael Eitan, Meir Shestrin, Avraham Shapira and Avner Shaki.

Weinroth was at one time considered close to Shas, and at one point represented Deri, after the latter was alleged to have committed fraud and breach of trust.

Weinroth quit the Deri case in 1993, after Deri did not heed his advice to continue invoking his right to remain silent, and at the same time suspend himself from political life for six months.

Bar association head criticizes Justice Barak, Avi-Yitzhak

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Supreme Court Chief Justice Aharon Barak got drawn further into the Bar-On affair yesterday when the head of the Israel Bar Association lashed out at him for "intervening" in the appointment of the attorney-general.

Barak was questioned by police Monday about what he knew regarding the appointment. Before the cabinet voted on Roni Bar-On's appointment on January 10, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said he had consulted Barak about the appointment.

That Barak discussed the matter with Hanegbi elicited the wrath of bar association head Dror Hoter-Yishai.

"According to the accepted division of power, the head of the Supreme Court is obliged to refrain from intervening in matters concerning the executive branch," Hoter-Yishai told reporters yesterday. "This is an unacceptable norm."

The involvement, Hoter-Yishai said, "led to a grave problem: The [court] president was obliged to give testimony in the affair. As a result, the Supreme Court and its president will find themselves in difficulties if they have to deal with

any legal aspects of this affair."

According to Channel 1, Hanegbi told Barak about Bar-On's appointment "as a matter of form." Barak even went so far as to tell Bar-On, at a later stage, that he, Barak, did not believe Bar-On was suitable for the post, the report added.

Hoter-Yishai also charged attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak with "what appears to be unethical behavior" for releasing to the media the text of his letter of resignation as legal counsel for MK Aryeh Deri. The letter, made public last Wednesday, was reportedly the subject of numerous complaints from lawyers throughout the country.

For three hours yesterday, the bar association's central committee and ethics committee discussed the issue.

"The ethics committee stresses the importance of maintaining professional privacy as a basic principle in the relationship between lawyer and client," committee chairman Matti Atzmon said later. He said that lawyers had to uphold this right "fearlessly and unambiguously."

Avi-Yitzhak will have a fortnight to send a "statutory reply" to the charges of violating professional ethics, Hoter-

Yishai said. After the association will decide whether to call him before a disciplinary court. Such a court could merely reprimand him or could revoke his license to practice law.

Responding sharply to Hoter-Yishai's remarks, Avi-Yitzhak, in a statement, noted that since Hoter-Yishai had connections with many of the people involved in the affair and was himself questioned on the matter by police, "he should refrain from commenting on the case and from dealing with it in any way."

He added that the Bar-On affair had nothing to do with the professional services he provided to Deri and were thus outside the realm of the lawyer-client relationship. He noted that Deri himself said that the principle of professional confidentiality did not apply to the matter, and that a court had also ruled to this effect.

"My only involvement in the matter was the result of my close association with the prime minister," he said.

Those who charged him with violating his client's right to privacy had themselves violated his right to privacy by publicizing the discussion of the ethics committee, Avi-Yitzhak added.

The end of a beautiful friendship?

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The friendship and political partnership between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu go a long way back. The two met some 10 years ago, when Netanyahu was Israel's UN ambassador, and grew closer when Netanyahu returned to Israel to run for the 1988 Likud list.

When Netanyahu announced he was running for the Likud leadership, after the election defeat of 1992, Hanegbi was the first MK to ally himself with the promising new leader. Since then he has been one of Netanyahu's staunchest supporters and closest allies.

Hanegbi, who gained a reputation for unruly conduct, soon became Netanyahu's operations chief and on-the-street supremo, playing a leading role in the protest actions and radical right-wing demonstrations against prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his ministers in 1995.

Hanegbi stood by Netanyahu through thick and thin, even when Netanyahu's political career was at an ebb, during the "sizzling cassette" affair, the period after Rabin's assassination, and the calls to remove him from the Likud's leadership before the elections.

Hanegbi's loyalty paid off. When Netanyahu became prime minister he appointed Hanegbi health minister. Soon after-



Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (standing at left) goes over to shake Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hand during a meeting of the Knesset Law Committee yesterday, as MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) extends his hand to Hanegbi as well. (Gaeli Haysi)

wards, when justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman resigned, Hanegbi was appointed to replace him in one of the most senior cabinet posts.

Now it appears that Netanyahu may be considering "sacrificing" Hanegbi in the Bar-On affair investigation. Hanegbi, as well as MK Aryeh Deri and Prime Minister's Office chief Avigdor Lieberman, played a key role in

the short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On to attorney-general. Hanegbi and Netanyahu gave the police contradictory testimony concerning the affair.

Statements issued this week by Netanyahu's attorney, Ya'acov Weinroth, indicate the defense line chosen by the prime minister. Hanegbi had misled Netanyahu and the cabinet into approving the appointment, not

telling them that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak strongly opposed it. By fingering Hanegbi as the villain in the affair, Netanyahu is once again playing the victim, who was led astray by people he trusted.

Hanegbi, on his part, says he will not accept the role of the scapegoat in this story and if he goes down, he will not go down alone. He stresses that Bar-On's

appointment was hatched in the prime minister's bureau, that Netanyahu was much more involved in the affair than he was, and that he acted properly.

Netanyahu, it is speculated, will have to replace certain ministers and assistants in order to repair his public image after the investigation is over. Hanegbi and Lieberman are among the names mentioned.

BACKGROUND/Herb Keinon

Hanegbi: I won't be made the scapegoat

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, one of key players in the Bar-On affair, has made it abundantly clear that he has no intention of going "gentle into that good [political] night." This despite hints from the Prime Minister's Office that they believe this to be Hanegbi's new role.

Hanegbi was quoted yesterday as saying he will not be the "Bar-On scapegoat," and that Prime Minister Netanyahu was more involved in the Bar-On appointment than he was.

The main questions involving Hanegbi are whether Bar-On was foisted on him by the Prime Minister's Office, or whether he first vetted the idea. The police are also investigating whether he knew of a "conspiracy" to appoint Bar-On.

Hanegbi, who has traveled a long, loyal road with Netanyahu, has been questioned twice by police, both times under caution, meaning he is suspected of having committed a crime and what he says may be used against him.

Hanegbi has, at least publicly, given two different accounts of where the Bar-On idea came from.

In an affidavit presented to the High Court of Justice regarding the appointment, Hanegbi wrote: "On December 1, 1996, the attorney-general [Michael Ben-Yair] told me of his intention to resign on January 1."

A number of days later the prime minister told me to recommend someone appropriate for the job. During the month of December I spent much time weighing the dif-

ferent candidates for the job. Around January 1, I told the prime minister that I formulated my recommendation, and that the candidate was Roni Bar-On. A number of days later the prime minister told me that this was acceptable to him, and that if circumstances would allow it, he would raise the issue the next day in the cabinet meeting."

But on January 23, the day after Ayalia Hassan broke the story, Hanegbi said: "When the name of Bar-On was given to me by the Prime Minister's Office, from a list of names, I am the one who thought that Bar-On would make a good candidate. The prime minister was impressed by him, but - despite that - decided on Dan Avi-Yitzhak, for reasons not having to do with this case."

Regardless of who first raised Bar-On as a candidate, Hanegbi was the point man at the cabinet meeting on January 10 when the appointment was approved.

Netanyahu's lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, has said that Hanegbi led him to believe that the appointment had the blessing of Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak, and that once Netanyahu heard that, he agreed to the appointment.

Some cabinet ministers, foremost among them Communications Minister Limor Livnat, also understood from the way Hanegbi presented the issue in the cabinet that Barak had indeed agreed to the appointment. Barak, who was questioned by police yesterday, reportedly said that he was opposed to Bar-On taking the post.

Deri at center of storm, again

The allegations that there was a conspiracy to appoint a "pliable" attorney-general shocked much of the country. But it's unlikely many people were surprised to hear that Aryeh Deri was somehow linked to the matter.

Deri, the one-time political wunderkind, has for the last decade been close to the center of most political storms, but this time he is the eye of the tornado.

If the allegations are true, then Deri was approached a few months ago by Likud activist David Appel with a deal to push for the appointment of an attorney-general who, Israel Television reported Appel as saying, "will be ours." That candidate was Roni Bar-On. Appel has since sued ITV for libel.

According to allegations, Deri then met Bar-On and - in exchange for his help in getting Bar-On appointed - Bar-On would agree to a plea bargain in his bribery case, making it possible for Deri to return to the cabinet.

According to this scenario, Hanegbi then received a list of possible candidates from the Prime Minister's Office and Bar-On's name was on the list.

In the meantime, the story goes, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had another favorite for the attorney-general's job: Dan Avi-Yitzhak. Deri's lead lawyer in his bribery trial, Deri was allegedly infuriated by this, either because he didn't want to lose his lawyer, or because he was afraid Avi-Yitzhak would not be able to strike a plea bargain with him.

Deri, by his own admission, then told Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, that if Avi-

Yitzhak is appointed, "you will have to deal with me."

One version of the story has Deri threatening Netanyahu that if he did not appoint Bar-On, Shas will leave the government. Another version has Deri threatening that Shas would not support the Hebron redeployment without a Bar-On appointment.

The Deri camp's denials to these allegations are of two kinds. The first are complete denials, claims that Deri knew nothing about Bar-On. The second is the claim that political give-and-take, even in dealing with sensitive appointments, is all part of politics.

Deri has been questioned under

caution for over 40 hours on five occasions. The questions the police are reportedly asking include: Did Appel recommend Bar-On to Deri? Did Deri and Bar-On meet? Did Bar-On give Deri assurances that he would arrange a plea bargain for the Shas leader? Did Deri tell Netanyahu that if Bar-On is not appointed attorney-general, Shas would leave the government? Did Deri say that Shas will not vote for the Hebron deal without Bar-On as attorney-general?

Once the answers are clear, a decision will have to be made whether to indict Deri for breach of trust, and/or extortion.

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear Mother, Sister, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother

HELEN E. WINKLER

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, February 26, 1997 approximately 1-1/2 hours after the arrival of TWA Flight #884 at the Eretz HaChaim cemetery in Beit Shמש

For further details please call 02-5861772

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on February 24, in Istanbul, after a long illness.

Her loving husband Isaac Sisa

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Tel Aviv

The Meranda family, Istanbul

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at the Hebrew University
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The board, staff and students
express condolences to
Rabbi Dr. Shaul (Paul) R. Feinberg
and family
on the death of his father

MILTON A. FEINBERG

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Fellowship meeting.

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Palestinians hold Har Homa demo

By JON IMMANUEL

Hundreds of Palestinians protested on Har Homa yesterday against the government's plans to build a Jewish neighborhood at the site, between two Arab villages, in southeastern Jerusalem.

Some waved placards saying "Jabal Abu Gneim will not become Har Homa." Abu Gneim is the Arabic name for the hill between Sur Bahir and Beit Sahur.

Sur Bahir was under Jordanian rule until 1967, and placed within the new Israeli borders of Jerusalem after 1967.

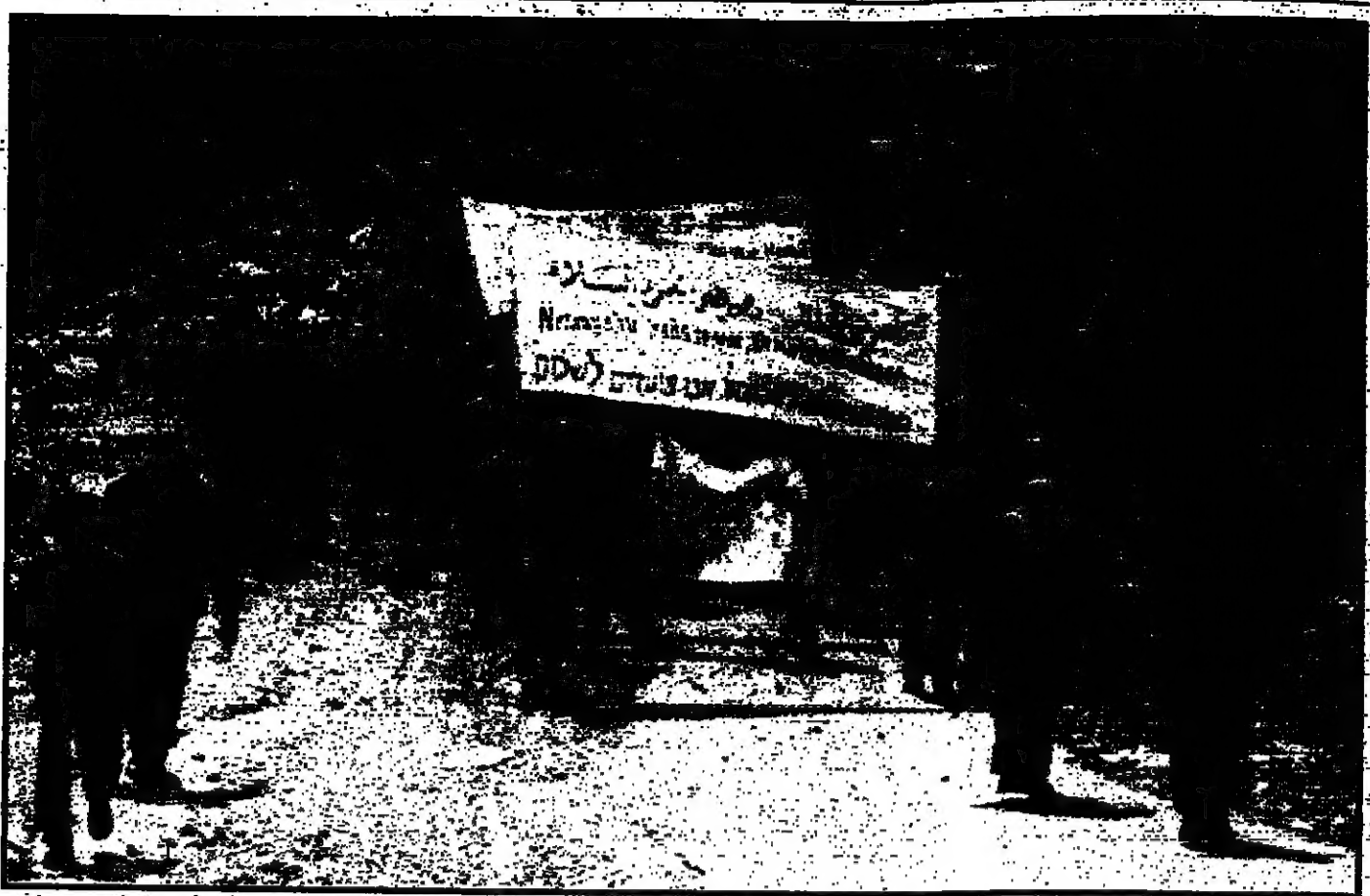
Salah Ta'amari, a Palestinian Council legislator for Bethlehem and Beit Sahur, said at the protest that, "This is only the beginning. We are sending a message to the Israeli government that its plans in the area and its plans in the territory of the Palestinian Authority will not pass without our opposition."

Today, the government is expected to give its support in principle for the establishment of the Har Homa project.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has tried to head off Arab opposition by offering Jerusalem Arab residents 3,500 housing units in other parts of the capital.

This has been rejected by Palestinians, who claim that building on Har Homa is designed to preempt the final borders of Jerusalem, and therefore violates the Oslo Accords. Israel claims it is making no changes to Jerusalem's status, since the borders were fixed long before the peace process began.

The animosity toward the Har Homa project, which would increase Jerusalem's Jewish population by some 25,000, is aggravated by the Palestinian perception that Israel is seeking to reduce the Arab population of the city by taking away the Jerusalem ID cards of any Palestinian who has acquired foreign citizenship or who has moved outside the Jerusalem Municipality.



Palestinians escorted by Palestinian Police march yesterday to protest the planned construction at Har Homa. (Chris Hendler)

Jihad rejects invite to Palestinian strategy parley

By JON IMMANUEL

Less than one day after Mahmoud Abbas, the deputy of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, accused "Islamic elements connected to Iran" of planning an assassination attempt against him, Islamic Jihad formally rejected an invitation to a national dialogue on the future of Palestinian strategy in the peace talks.

The talks which were scheduled for later this week had been accepted by all opposition groups, including Hamas. However Islamic Jihad, the most pro-Iranian of local Islamic groups, said in a leaflet to international news agencies that it could not participate since the condition for doing so was ending "armed struggle" against Israel.

However, this is not the understanding of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine which plans to attend the dialogue conference, but still rejects

the Oslo accords and formally adheres to the right to use violence against Israel.

While in Abu Dhabi, Abbas told international news agencies on Monday that three men were arrested for planning to kill him a week ago in the West Bank. One agency said the plan included an attack on Arafat as well. PA police have refused to comment on Abbas's charge and have said they do not know of such an assassination plan, although the three men may be held by one security arm without the knowledge of others.

Islamic Jihad's rejection of dialogue is likely connected with the accusations levelled by Oslo accords architect Abbas, since whether the charges are true or not, they indicate new friction between the PA and at least one Islamic group. Hamas, some 10 times larger than Islamic Jihad, has agreed to participate in the dialogue without accepting the Oslo accords.

Canada-PA free trade area likely by May

By DAVID HARRIS

The Palestinian Authority and Canada are likely to sign a free trade agreement in May, Canadian International Trade Minister Art Eggleton told the Jerusalem Post yesterday. This would bring trade relations between the two in line with those between Canada and Israel.

The date for the signing was suggested during a meeting in Ramallah between Eggleton and PA Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri. A PA legislative council delegation is already scheduled to visit Canada in May.

"The major principles of the agreement have been concluded," said Eggleton. "However, I must point out, you can sign an agreement, but it is the business communities that will have to carry out their contracts and increase

trade." Eggleton denied Canada's interest in the PA is merely restricted to gesture politics. "We need to open markets around the world," said Eggleton, who has brought with him a delegation of 50 businesspeople. "We don't want total dependence on the United States, we want to diversify. A lot of these markets may not be strong now, but they may become so, some day."

Meanwhile, the Manufacturers Associations of Israel and Canada signed a cooperation agreement yesterday. The two sides will work to increase trade volume, which currently stands at an annual \$480 million, a figure Eggleton said could easily double in the next few years.

The manufacturers' agreement calls for the exchange of information, advancement of certain projects and the creation of bilateral seminars.

Settlers threaten Peace Now activists at Baruch Goldstein's grave

By MARGOT DUDKEWICH

Peace Now plans to file a complaint with police after one of the movement's activists was threatened by a settler near Baruch Goldstein's gravesite yesterday, during a protest vigil marking three years since the Hebron massacre.

According to Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari, a group of 10 activists was confronted by a small group of settlers at the site. "The settlers swore and

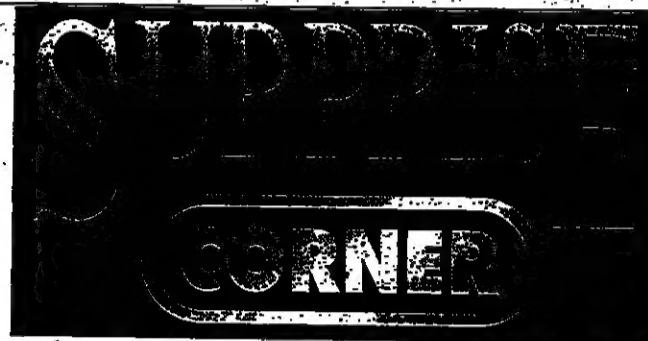
yelled out to bring a rope for the traitors," she said.

Ya'ari said one of the settlers approached an activist, and threatened "the next time without the police around you won't leave here alive."

The group was not allowed to stand at the actual gravesite, but forced to hold its protest at the entrance to Meir Kahane Park.

Peace Now is demanding that Goldstein's grave be transferred to a more inconspicuous site within Israel.

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NEWS

in brief

Murder forces postponement of court case

Monday's apparent murder of Ya'acov Kahalon, one of three suspects in the attempted murder of Ze'ev Rosenstein, has forced the postponement of testimony by another suspect in the case. Tel Aviv District Court Judge Devora Berliner, Sara Gadot and Zvi Gurfinkel decided to delay hearing testimony from Rafi Weizman due to the slaying. A third suspect in the case, Ilan Aslan, has been missing for some two months.

School health may return to Health Ministry

Responsibility for school health services should be returned to the Health Ministry, Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dal said yesterday at a meeting of the Knesset Education Committee on the issue. Dal said Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza discussed the matter yesterday and agreed this would be the best solution to providing health services to schoolchildren.

MKs back Burg's joint panel on religious affairs

Members of the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday expressed strong support for statements by Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg on the need to refrain from any legislation altering the religious status quo or any change in the Law of Return.

According to a Jewish Agency spokesperson, the MKs also supported Burg's idea to set up a joint committee of Jewish Agency leaders representing Diaspora Jewry and Israeli political and social leaders to discuss Israeli-Diaspora relations and religious affairs. Burg called on the MKs to do everything possible to postpone any vote on conversion legislation. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Artists promise MKs to help fight drug abuse

"Be cool, not stoned," is one of the slogans members of the War on Drugs Authority presented to the Knesset Committee Against Drug Abuse yesterday, which discussed drug use in the entertainment world.

Comedian Menahem Zilberman found nothing funny about drugs, and promised on behalf of the EMI, the performers and artists association, to battle drug use.

Zilberman, however, warned against generalizing about drug abuse among performers, saying that the publicity about drug cases involving celebrities exaggerates the extent of the phenomenon. *Liat Collins*

Hanukka special by Israeli, Canadian animators

Israel's Argo Films and Canada's Lacewood are signing a co-production agreement in Tel Aviv today to make *The Glorious Silver Hanukka Menorah*, a TV special to be broadcast internationally at Hanukka. Canadian Minister of Trade Arthur Eggleton will attend the signing.

Lacewood is one of Canada's leading animation houses, whose films are shown in 70 countries. Argo produces children's films for TV such as Channel 3's *The Warehouse of Make-Believe*. This is the first animation co-production since the joint Israeli/Canadian TV agreement was signed in 1985, and is budgeted at \$425,000. *Helen Kaye*

Knesset panel delays decision on minimum sentence for sex crimes

By BATSEVA TSUR

Despite heavy pressure from MKs and lobbyists, the Knesset Law Committee yesterday postponed a decision on the second reading of a bill which would set minimum sentences for sexual offenses.

The bill, introduced by MKs Yael Dayan (Labor) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz), received the backing of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who both attended the committee meeting.

Despite the importance of the issue at hand, it was clearly the presence of Netanyahu and Hanegbi which made the meeting the Knesset's media attraction of the day.

The two men, who have been at odds over the Bar-On affair this week - each hinting

that the other was responsible for the former attorney-general's appointment - shook hands cordially. Then they sat down on either side of committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) and ignored each other. When both had had their say to the committee, they left the room, refusing to comment to reporters about the affair.

"We have to thank the ministers for taking off time to come here when there are such stormy affairs going on," said Yahalom, who introduced the draft bill. The bill would obligate judges to impose a minimum sentence of one-quarter of the maximum sentence for the offense, he said.

But he pointed out that, if the Knesset passed the bill, it would become law only a year later when a committee examining the penal system has finished its deliberations.

The draft bill does not include crimes

committed by minors, he noted.

Netanyahu requested that a clause be added to the draft, to cover violence in the family against children. The punishment for such a crime should be double that of an ordinary crime, Netanyahu proposed. "The home is the child's refuge from the world outside," he said. "It is preposterous when the child's protector turns into his attacker."

Hanegbi praised the various factions in the Knesset for getting together on such an important issue.

Dayan pointed out that various lobbyists had helped to bring the bill to the public's attention after an earlier attempt by MK Ephraim Sneh, in the previous Knesset, had failed to garner government support.

While most committee members expressed support for the proposed bill, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov

pointed out that the legal system was opposed to the introduction of a minimum sentence. He noted that there were different degrees of severity involved in a crime and that it was impossible to tie the judges' hands. There is nothing wrong with the existing legislation, Strashnov said, noting that many judges had passed severe sentences for sexual offenses.

Representatives of the Women's Network pointed to a recent survey of court rulings on sentences for criminal offenses, presented to Chief Justice Aharon Barak. According to the survey, carried out between 1988 and 1993, the average sentence for a sexual offense was only 15 percent of the maximum punishment meted out by the law.

The committee plans to continue its discussion on the draft in the near future.



Bombing victims remembered

Aviva Barashi, the widow of Arye Barashi, killed in the No. 18 bus bombing last February 25 on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road, stands with her children Alona, Odelya, and Eli in front of a memorial plaque unveiled yesterday. Meanwhile, Army Radio reported that Hassan Salameh, suspected of planning that bombing, the bombing of an Ashkelon hitchhiking post on the same day, and the bombing of another Jerusalem No. 18 bus last March 3, is to be tried by a special three-judge panel empowered to pass the death sentence, and will also be charged with murdering a collaborator in 1992. His trial is reportedly to begin in the coming weeks. *(Byron McBurney)*

Mordechai: US should join Israeli-Turkish maneuvers

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Israel is interested in joint air and naval exercises between the IDF and the Turkish Army, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told visiting Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi yesterday.

Karadayi appeared to be open to the idea, and told Mordechai that there were many areas where cooperation between the defense establishments could be improved, in a sign that the Turkish military is keen on enhancing ties with Israel despite opposition from Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

"I can promise you that cooperation between Israel and Turkey in general and in security areas in particular will continue at all times and with the full might in the best of interests of both countries," Mordechai said following their meeting in Tel Aviv.

Mordechai also told Karadayi that the cooperative relations between Israel and Turkey are contributing to the stability of the Middle East and preventing extremists' states from changing the face of the region.

Regarding the joint naval and air exercises both countries have agreed to, Mordechai said he would like to include the US Sixth Fleet because "American participation like this will greatly enhance the security of the two states and of the entire region."

Israel considers Karadayi's visit an important sign that the military alliance signed last year with Turkey is on stable ground.

Mordechai said both countries were continuing to hold strategic dialogue, and wants to strengthen the links between the two countries' defense industries.

Karadayi is to visit the Armored Corps Memorial in Latrun and Israel Aircraft Industries today.

Survey: Most religious teacher trainees believe Israeli Arabs are the enemy

Seventy percent of religious students studying to be teachers believe that Israeli Arabs are enemies of the state, while 30% of secular education students believe this, according to a survey released this week.

Results of the survey, by Dr. Yair Oron, Gila Zelikovitz, and Dr. Nili Keren, were presented at a conference sponsored by the Meiznad movement, entitled "The 'Other' in Religious Education."

According to the study, 41% of the state-religious schools' future teachers reject the idea that Israeli Arabs should have equal rights, as opposed to 8% of those planning to teach in the secular school system.

Seventy-six percent of the religious students believe that "the state belongs to the Jews," and that Arabs have no right to be involved in diplomatic affairs. Only 41% of the religious students believed that the murder of an Arab in Jerusalem with champagne was a racist act, while 71% of the secular students believed this.

The survey was conducted among 643 education students, 430 studying in six secular institutions and 213 studying in four religious ones. *(Ilim)*

Settlement now a tool for enhancing Zionist values among youth

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Yeshiva students from the military preparatory college at the settlement of Eli have taken over a hilltop Nahal outpost in Samaria, in the first step toward turning it into a civilian settlement.

The move is part of a Defense Ministry plan for national endeavors aimed at instilling motivation in Israeli youth.

The plan also calls for the Nahal

outpost of Eshbal in the Galilee to be handed over to the Noar Ve'avoda (Youth and Labor) Movement this summer and for the revival of the abandoned Kibbutz Keren Shalom along the Egyptian border by a group from the leftist Hashomer Hatzair (Young Guard) movement.

At the Samarian outpost of Hemdat, about a dozen students from the Eli military preparatory college were busy setting up what

the Defense Ministry sees as a branch of the college.

The plan grew out of the Youth and Nahal branch of the Defense Ministry headed by Brig-Gen. (res.) Yehuda Duvdevani, who took over just a few months ago. According to the Defense Ministry, the "nationalistic" plan is to "encourage youth to take part in national and security missions and to strengthen their value of settlement."

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Tour guides: Israel Shalev

Thursday April 3
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
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Tour guides: Danny Syon

Tuesday April 15
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NIS 180 (including lunch)
Tour guides: Yisrael Shalev

Thursday April 24
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NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guides: Danny Weiss

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- Prof. Aharon Kleiman**, Prof. of International Relations at Tel Aviv University, leading lecturer at the ESRA Ra'anana College.
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Korean president apologizes for corruption scandal, banishes son

By PAUL SHIN

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's president told the country yesterday that he was "extremely sad, grim and sorry" over aides' involvement in a bribery scandal, and banished a son who has been linked to the scandal.

President Kim Young-sam made the apology in a somber nationally televised speech marking the fourth anniversary of his inauguration. The scandal has wracked Kim's administration and his standing with the public, and he hopes to salvage what is left of his term, which ends in February 1998.

After the president's speech, all 12 of his senior secretaries offered to resign. Resignations also were expected to be

offered by his Cabinet and key leaders of the governing New Korea Party.

Information Minister Oh In-hwan said the president would extensively reorganize his government.

Hanbo Steel Industry Co., a flagship of the Hanbo group, the nation's 14th-largest conglomerate, went bankrupt January 23 after racking up \$6 billion in debt, mostly from government-controlled bank loans.

Ten people — a cabinet minister, three legislators, one of them a former close aide to the president, two bankers, the head of the steel company and three of his executives — were indicted last week on charges of taking or giving millions of dollars in bribes to arrange the loans.

"What troubles me more is that the name of one of my sons is talked about in con-

nection with this case," Kim said. "As other fathers in this world, I consider my son's fault to be my own." Prosecutors already have questioned and cleared Kim's son, 38-year-old Kim Hyun-chul. But an opposition legislator alleged in a speech in Parliament on Monday that Kim's son took \$235 million in kickbacks.

The opposition labeled the prosecutors' work a whitewash and urged that an independent prosecutor reinvestigate.

After the president's speech, his son dropped the libel suit he had filed a week ago accusing six opposition politicians of falsely implicating him in the scandal.

"I now want to clear things around me," an aide quoted the son as saying of the decision to drop the suit.

The president's son holds no government

position but has often been criticized by the opposition for alleged influence-peddling.

The president said that although his son was legally cleared in the scandal, he felt "moral responsibility" and will order him to suspend all "social activity." The president did not elaborate, but the national Yonhap news agency said Kim Hyun-chul will be sent abroad for study. He received a doctorate in business administration from Seoul's Korea University today.

Opposition parties welcomed Kim's apology, but said he failed to resolve the crisis by ignoring their demand for an independent prosecutor.

At a rally at Hanyang University in Seoul, some 500 militant students also demanded further investigations into Hanbo.



Sheep of things to come

Dolly, the first genetically cloned sheep, is unveiled to the public at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh yesterday. Genetically identical to her mother, Dolly is the result of the groundbreaking experiment conducted by institute experts.

(Reuters)

Report of Algerian massacre -18 dead

By RACHID KHARI

ALGIERS (AP) — Dozens of Muslim militants set up a fake military checkpoint, then shot and hacked to death 18 people in the mountains of northwestern Algeria, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The slayings, which took place overnight Sunday, lasted over a five-hour period at the checkpoint set up near the town of Saïda, 400 km. southwest of Algiers, the independent daily *El Khabar*.

Witnesses who returned to Algiers said they saw about 60 well-armed militants at the checkpoint, blocking the road with two heavy trucks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group. Known by its initials GIA, the group has set up fake checkpoints in the past to kill young military conscripts.

Of the 18 victims, 17 were less than 25 years old, the newspaper said. The government, which has downplayed Muslim militant violence, did not report the massacre.

The attack was among the latest in a five-year-old Muslim insurgency. More than 60,000 people have died since the military-backed government canceled January 1992 parliamentary

runoffs the Islamic Salvation Front was expected to win on voter anger with corruption and high unemployment.

The Front sought to establish a government based on Islamic law.

On Monday, a home-made bomb exploded in a crowded marketplace south of the Algerian capital, killing one person and leaving at least 20 injured in the stampede that followed, witnesses said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack at Boufarik, 40 km. south of Algiers.

Meanwhile, media reports said Monday that 18 other civilians had been killed by armed groups in the same general region since last Thursday. The reports blamed Muslim militants for the deaths.

The GIA, one of the two most powerful armed groups backing the Islamic fundamentalist's fight against the Algerian government, renewed its call to violence on Monday.

In a statement issued to the London-based independent Arabic language *El Hayat* newspaper, the group said it would "continue to wage its battle against the Algerian government." A wave of massacres and car bombings killed more than 350 people during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ended February 9.

China honors Deng, bombs rock western city

BEIJING (Reuters) — Deng Xiaoping's heir, President Jiang Zemin, hailed the late strongman in a funeral oration yesterday and said the future lay in the capitalist-style reforms of the revolutionary who transformed China.

But signs of cracks in the unity that Jiang presented as Deng's legacy appeared within hours of his final memorial rites when bombs rocked the western city of Urumqi.

Around 60 casualties and at least one death were reported in two almost simultaneous bomb blasts that hit the mainly Moslem city, capital of restive Xinjiang region yesterday evening, officials said. One bus was destroyed.

As final rites began for Deng, who died last Wednesday at age 92, sirens and whistles wailed nationwide for three minutes to lament the man who delivered unprecedented prosperity to the world's most populous nation while keeping communists in charge.

In Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People, 10,000 of China's elite Mao-suited revolutionaries mingled with Western-suited technocrats to bow before Deng's ashes.

They heard Jiang, Deng's protégé and now China's most powerful man, sob theatrically at the start of a 50-minute eulogy.

"The people of China love Comrade Deng

Xiaoping, thank Comrade Deng Xiaoping, mourn for Comrade Deng Xiaoping, and cherish the memory of Comrade Deng Xiaoping," Jiang said.

In a simple ceremony in line with Deng's wishes, Jiang reaffirmed Deng's distinctive formula of economic reform mixed with socialism, saying: "Reform is the inevitable road through which China will be able to achieve socialist modernization." On the stage beneath a black-framed portrait of a smiling, avuncular Deng lay a casket containing his ashes, draped with a red hammer-and-sickle communist flag, surrounded by flowers.

He was considered such a radical leader that Woody Allen, in his

Defector shot 11 days ago dies in hospital

SEOUL (AP) — The prominent North Korean defector who was shot 11 days ago by unidentified gunmen died yesterday in a hospital, announced. The victim, Lee Han-young, 36, was the nephew of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's former wife. Shot in the head by one of two assailants as he was about to enter a friend's apartment on February 15, Lee had not been expected to recover.

St. Peter's facade to be restored

VATICAN CITY (AP) — St. Peter's Basilica is getting a face-lift. The facade of the Vatican church will be cleaned and restored where needed in preparation for celebrations marking the start of Christianity's third millennium.

Funding and technical help will come from ENI, the Italian state energy conglomerate. ENI said yesterday officials would release details of the work at a Vatican news conference tomorrow. The facade, completed in 1616, is 115 meters wide and 45 meters high.

Iran's nuclear plant ready to start

TEHRAN (AP) — A newspaper reported yesterday that the Bushehr nuclear plant will shortly be connected to Iran's electricity grid, the first indication that the controversial facility was close to completion.

The Farsi-language *Ettelaat* daily quoted Esmail Tabadar, deputy governor of southern Bushehr province, as saying that the power plant would come on stream during a visit by President Hashemi Rafsanjani. No such visit has been announced, but Tabadar said it was

"imminent." The Bushehr plant is being completed mostly with Russian equipment and engineers in a \$1 billion deal with Moscow despite opposition by the United States. US officials fear that Iran could use the technology to build nuclear weapons. Iran has not announced when the facility will be completed.

But *Ettelaat* quoted Tabadar as saying that the nuclear facility would be hooked up to the 400-kilowatt Chogaqad electricity network, which will bring it onto the national grid.

Earlier this month, officials in Ukraine said that Iran was shopping there for two, \$50-million turbines for the Bushehr nuclear plant.

The German firm Siemens started the Bushehr project in the mid-1970s, but work was interrupted by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and its 1980-88 war with Iraq, during which the facility was badly damaged.

US and Israeli officials have said Iran could have nuclear weapons in less than a decade, but Iran says it is not interested in acquiring them.

Japan Foreign Ministry: No word on Red Army

TOKYO (Reuters) — The Japanese Foreign Ministry said yesterday it had no information on the case of Japanese Red Army suspects reported to have been held by Lebanese authorities last week.

"We have had no information from Lebanon on the case," a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Last Tuesday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Pierre Bouez said

Lebanese security forces had arrested Japanese citizens suspected of belonging to the Red Army guerrilla group and they were being interrogated.

The same day, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said in Tokyo that Lebanese authorities had arrested up to six key members of the Red Army in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

Hashimoto said he had been informed by Lebanese officials that the aging guerrillas and three supporters, all of them Japanese, were arrested in the Bekaa Valley, where

they had been holed up for years. Hashimoto said the arrested Red Army members included Kozo Okamoto, 49, a gunman involved in the 1972 Lod airport massacre.

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The test of Har Homa

At today's special ministerial meeting on Jerusalem, the government is expected to announce the building of 2,600 housing units in a new Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa, and 3,500 units for Arabs in 10 Arab neighborhoods in the capital. The government is right to closely link the provision of Jewish and Arab housing in Jerusalem, in an arrangement that takes into account Palestinian sensitivities on this issue.

The Har Homa project is part of a larger municipal plan to build 20,000 units in Jewish neighborhoods and 8,500 units in Arab neighborhoods — in rough proportion to the city's current population balance.

Approval of building in the Arab sector is long overdue, because very little housing has been approved for Arabs in Jerusalem over the years. Though it is understandable that officials want to maintain the current demographic balance, Jerusalem's Arab sector must also be given room for natural growth.

The potentially significant policy change in favor of Arab building in Jerusalem, has not yet received any positive response from Palestinian leaders. More typical is Friday's statement by the Palestinian Authority cabinet: "The Palestinian leadership is very worried by the explosive situation in the City of Jerusalem after the latest Israeli claims, which are designed to isolate the city and Al Aksa Mosque from the rest of the West Bank."

This statement is farfetched, to say the least. It was a lie when Palestinian leaders claimed that the opening of a new exit to the Western Wall tunnel undermined the Al Aksa mosque. It is just as outrageous — and as dangerous — to claim that the Har Homa project has anything to do with Al Aksa or any other holy place. The Har Homa project does not isolate anything; it is slated for a barren hilltop a good distance away from any major road, let alone the Al Aksa mosque.

It is one thing for Palestinians to oppose a step they believe to be against their interests; quite another to wildly distort the facts to maximize the emotional response. It is not so much the lie itself that is disturbing as the objective behind it: To incite, rather than diffuse, a conflict with Israel over building in Jerusalem.

Nor is the incitement-through-distortion technique limited to the religious front. Palestinian leaders are also claiming that the Har Homa project is a "blatant violation" of the Oslo Accords, because it changes the status of Jerusalem, which is a "final-status" issue.

This is a clear misreading of the agreement. While the Oslo agreement does prohibit either side from changing the status of the territories in

dispute, this clause clearly refers to legal status. The clause is meant to prohibit Israel from annexing territory and the Palestinians from declaring a state — not to prohibit either side from building housing.

If anything, it is the Palestinians who are violating the agreements by attempting to intervene in Jerusalem, which, under Article XVII of the Oslo 2 pact, is explicitly excluded from the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. This violation pales, however, in comparison to the violation of Oslo that the Palestinians are threatening to carry out: A violent response to an Israeli action that they oppose.

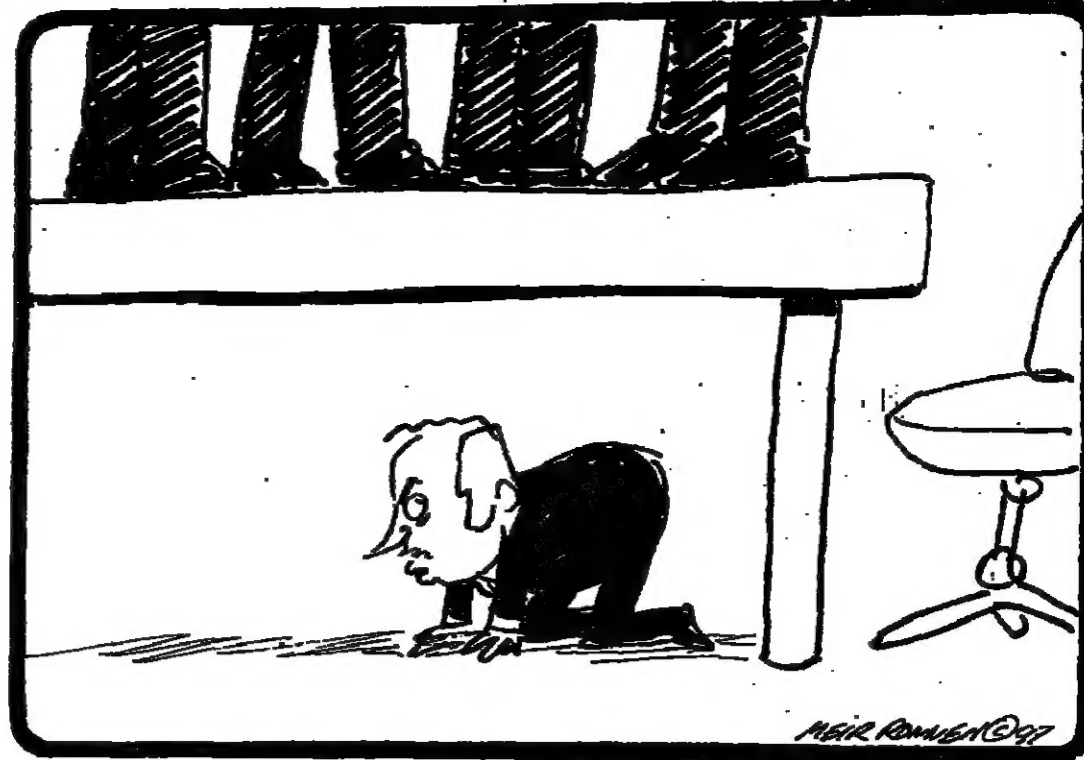
The Palestinian commitment to eschew violence is not just a matter of adhering to the plain meaning of every agreement reached with Israel since the historic handshake on the White House lawn in September 1993. It is the heart of the moral and psychological bargain with the people of Israel. Nothing could be more fundamental to the survival of the peace process than upholding the principle of the peaceful resolution of disputes. The peace process is a two-way street. Israel cannot be expected to continue to take the concrete, risky, and painful steps of handing over territory to a Palestinian entity, if the Palestinians are not willing or able to do the only thing that is expected of them: Reject violence.

Since the Hebron deal, rejecting violence is not only a matter of abiding by the Oslo agreements, but of honoring a solemn commitment to the United States.

President Bill Clinton and his peace team should not wait for violence to occur in this case, but should move to prevent it. This can be done by pointing out that the Har Homa project, however inadvisable from a US perspective, is not a violation of the Oslo Accords. The US should make clear that a violent Palestinian response would be a very serious violation of Oslo, and the Palestinian Authority would be held responsible for it.

Some Palestinians have claimed that Israel's decision regarding the Har Homa project is a test of Israel's seriousness about peace. It is true that, in the post-Oslo era, Israel should take Palestinian concerns into consideration, even when it is not specifically required to do so by the agreement.

Israel, however, cannot be expected to severely limit its sovereignty in its own capital, particularly since Jerusalem is specifically excluded from Palestinian jurisdiction under the Oslo Accords. The real test is whether the Palestinians can stay within the accords' boundaries in expressing their opposition to legitimate Israeli actions.



Har Homa is too late

DAN LEON

With the prime minister's announcement that the Har Homa project will receive government approval, the affair seems to be unfolding like a Greek tragedy in which the fate of the participants is not only sealed, but foreseen.

Thus, with awful inevitability, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert announced from the US last week that he is not interested in any local or international ramifications, only in getting the project approved.

He knows that Faisal Hussein, who calls this "a declaration of war by Israel," sees an explosion imminent should Israel persist with such policies in Jerusalem.

Regarding Netanyahu's stated intention to permit Arab building within the municipal borders as a quid pro quo for Har Homa, expert on Jerusalem Mervin Benvenisti commented yesterday that "as with similar promises in the past, nothing will result."

In Brussels this week, Yasser Arafat made it crystal-clear that Har Homa could endanger the whole peace process; in this conviction he has the backing of the entire Arab world.

On the Israeli side, Jerusalem Police Chief Aryeh Amit has warned that building would be "an extreme act, likely to incite the Palestinian masses." Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani added that it "could lead to serious disturbances among the Palestinians."

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon was more ambiguous, but noted that "the situation could get out of control because of pressure on Arafat from the street."

The way in which the Palestinians see Har Homa was well put by Hussein. "In war," he said, "each side can take any action it wants, according to its own considerations. But we are in a peace process, and we are meant to act according to concepts appropriate to a peace agreement. In peacetime, decisions must be taken with the agreement of both parties."

If the Israelis persist in taking unilateral decisions, this is a sign that they are thinking in terms of war, not peace.

The Israeli political landscape

is, of course, replete with arguments justifying Har Homa from the highest level, the prime minister himself, and on down: We must exert our authority over all the area of united Jerusalem; we must carry out our promises to the electorate. We must surround the city with Jewish settlement and housing; our security demands that we separate 170,000 Palestinian Jerusalemites from areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Finally, come what may, we must not be deterred by threats — for that would sabotage our whole negotiating position. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has gone so far as to declare that "if we don't continue building in Jerusalem, it will be the end of Zionism... if the building of the neighborhood leads to the end of the peace process, it will also be the end of Arafat."

While these dire ends Sharansky foresees certainly ring of ancient Greek tragedy, in current political terms the minister raises two questions. Does Zionism indeed depend upon this or that building project in Jerusalem? And would "the end of Arafat" be to Israel's advantage?

The formidable political consensus around Har Homa incorporates not only all the coalition parties, but also Labor MKs like Ehud Barak, Avraham Shohat, and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. Jerusalem Labor MK Ofir Pines even saw Netanyahu's hesitant stand over Har Homa as "evidence that he has lost his self-confidence concerning government policy on Jerusalem. Over Har Homa, says MK Dalia Itzik, "We must hit Bibi as hard as we can, call him a liar, and say that he is dividing Jerusalem."

With the Labor opposition trying to out-flank Netanyahu on the right, what will their platform be when they find themselves fighting an election?

JERUSALEM may be the holy city, but there is nothing sacred about Har Homa (Jabal Ghazal). Israel has an interest in coexistence with the Palestinian population of Jerusalem — and, beyond question and rightly or wrongly, to them Har Homa is a provocation which can only lead to new bloodshed.

Are we not being irresponsible in pursuing our policy unilaterally, from the point of view both of our interests in Jerusalem and in peace?

The alternative is not to concur with Arafat's every step, but to accept that both parties draw their own red lines which it is perilous to cross, and around which negotiations are imperative.

The new US secretary of state is warning against steps which would make peace efforts more difficult. The European Community agrees.

There is a difference between Har Homa and nearby Gilo, or Givat Ze'ev or Ramot, even if all the latter were built in spite of Palestinian protests on land expropriated from them in a Jerusalem whose "unification" was not recognized by the international community.

On formerly Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, 36,000 units were then built for Jews, while on other lands 600 units were built with government aid for Palestinians who constituted 28 percent of the population. The difference is that then there was no peace process; now there is one.

The Har Homa project is too late. It has missed the bus — and in any case the cost of the journey is now liable to be too high for any reasonable traveler.

Not for Natan Sharansky. For him, "regarding Jerusalem, any time is the right time, and no time is better than the present." Ecclesiastes speaks of "a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace." Perhaps, too, there should be a time of caution.

The author is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

Just a name

JACOB CHINITZ

What should we make of the flap over a German newspaper calling Britain's foreign secretary "The Jew Rifkind"?

The respected German Frankfurt *Allgemeine Zeitung* has refused to apologize for the epithet, claiming no insult was intended.

Journalist Michaela Wiegell, reporting on a speech Malcolm Rifkind made last week, wrote: "As if not completely convinced by his own words, the Jew Rifkind concluded — ironically, apologetically — with a quote from Luther: 'Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.'"

Former Conservative minister David Hunt, chairman of the British branch of the inter-parliamentary Council Against Antisemitism, was outraged by the FAZ labeling of Rifkind. Calling it reminiscent of "the language of Hitler," Hunt said he had written to the speaker of the German parliament.

But in Germany itself, Ignatz Bubis, leader of the Jewish community, who has never hesitated to criticize actions or remarks offensive to the community, said reaction to the epithet — which dominated British media over the weekend — was totally overblown. The context in which it appeared, he said, showed no insult was intended.

Rifkind himself, meanwhile, has sought to downplay the whole thing.

Well — is it an insult to be called "Jew"?

In the 19th century some prominent American Jews thought so. In its place they tried to popularize the name "Hebrew," which is the background against which the Reform Rabbinical Seminary was named Hebrew Union College, even in Jerusalem; and it also explains why the movement's

organization of synagogues is called the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Yet if people do not object to being identified as Democrat or Republican, Labor or Tory, Christian or Moslem, doctor, lawyer or professor, why should they jump at being labeled "Jew"?

THERE are some grounds for discomfort.

In Christian theology and the culture flowing from it, "Jew" is associated with Judas, betrayer of Christ. Both Jew and Judas come from Judah, one of the Tribes of Israel.

Since the 10 tribes were lost in the 7th century BCE, and the remaining Israelites came mainly from the tribe of Judah in the southern kingdom of Judaea, it was only natural for the new Israelites of the Diaspora to be called Jews.

Dictionaries used to vie with each other over derogatory definitions under "Jew," though they are slowly cleaning up their act. But the 1989 edition of the *Oxford Dictionary* still lists "Jew" as a verb meaning "to bargain excessively, to cheat, or behave in the manner of a usurer."

And there's my old friend the Jewish fish, which the 1988 *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* says is "any of various large groupers... usually dusky, green or blackish, thick-headed, and rough-scaled."

Shakespeare's Shylock and his pound of flesh have caused shudders in many generations of Jews, and the German classic *Jew Süss* symbolizes the shady diplomatic maneuverer who pulls the strings of power behind the scenes.

Was the reason David Ben-Gurion did not give the name Judea to the new Jewish state the negative Diaspora associations it evoked? In contrast, the name Israel shone out as a biblical symbol of triumph.

But we have moved on almost 50 years. And it seems strange that with the State of Israel assumed to have given Jews back their lost dignity, the epithet "Jew" can still be felt as a put-down.

Madeleine Albright, new US Secretary of State, recently discovered her Jewishness. She is now reportedly embarrassed by the possibility of naming too many Jews to diplomatic and government posts. Is this a manifestation of that same uneasiness over being labeled "Jew"?

It's no surprise that our history has made us self-conscious. I admit to feeling a chill when I heard about "the Jew Rifkind," and recall a similar reaction long ago, when a Canadian immigration official told me brightly: "Jacob Chinitz — you couldn't get a more Jewish name than that!"

The author is a lecturer and freelance writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BANK WORKERS' STRIKE

Sir, — In your issue of February 14, you published an article entitled "Public opposes Friday bank closure." As a veteran bank worker, I would like to assure you and your reading public that I am far from overpaid and work a ridiculous work week, due to the three late afternoon shifts that I am forced to work every week in addition to Fridays.

With the increasing sophistication of the Israeli banking system, there is little practical justification to keep the branches open on Fridays as well as in the evenings. Since the national trend is to a five-day week, the inability of a very small segment of the population to come in during the afternoon or evening shifts or to utilize the telephone services offered from 7 a.m. to midnight or to use an ATM machine ought not keep the rest of the country hostage. With the shift to a five-day week, we will be there to serve the reasonable and overwhelming majority of the populace during reasonable hours for all!

MOSHE BAR-ZEV
Beit El.

HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS

Sir, — A lot of negative stories are told about the absorption process. However, I would like to share something very positive with you. There is a volunteer working with new immigrants in Netanya on an independent basis (in cooperation with the social services of the municipality) who is totally immersed in his work: counseling and extending financial aid to needy olim through a charity fund which he created called "This Land is Mine Olim Fund." All kinds of people apply to him: scientists, students, pensioners, single mothers, etc. He always has time to receive everybody and help them; his help is effective and purposeful. He doesn't strive for popularity or glory, and he doesn't like any fuss. He lives and works according to the highest moral standards. He devotes much time and effort to his work unselfishly. That's why he is held in high esteem. His name is Moshe Shamir, chairman of "This Land is Mine Olim Fund" and Regional Chair of the AACI in Netanya.

MIRIAM CHIREYSKY
Netanya.

WISE BASIC APPROACH

Sir, — It is time to put to rest once and for all the idea that Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres "lied" to the voters because the Oslo Accords were not embodied in Labor's 1992 platform, as Jay Shapiro claims in his Letter to the Editor of February 7. Leadership sometimes means forging ahead of what the electorate is supposedly ready for, a fact which has been forgotten in our era of politicians cuning their policies to suit the opinion polls. The fact that the present government, which was supposed to be ferociously right wing, has meekly fallen in line with Rabin and Peres's basic approach only proves its wisdom and inescapability.

This naturally displeases those who think like Shapiro. But they should think twice before mounting another campaign of character assassination culminating in real assassination, because they will find that not just 90 percent of the Knesset but 90 percent of the public is against them.

MARTIN J. GIDRON
Tel Aviv.

THE JUDEAZATION OF JERUSALEM

Sir, — Hanan Ashrawi, with her usual contempt for truth, has complained about what she called "the Judeization of Jerusalem." Now if we look at the Holy City from the prosaic statistical point of view, we note that Jews have been the majority in Jerusalem since 1870 (or as early as 1854 according to Karl Marx's estimate). Of course Jerusalem has worldwide significance for religion, civilization, and culture, and for their history. Here again, the city's meaning for the world, and for Christians and Moslems in particular, is rooted in Jewish history, religion and tradition.

So we see that the city is Jewish both in the majority of its population and in its meaning in world history. What Arab nationalists have been trying to do for most of the 20th century (with the help of influential Westerners) is to de-Judeize Jerusalem. Before World War I, Jews lived in various quarters of the Old City and in various

areas outside the walls. Jewish merchants maintained shops in the Old City, on David Street, the Street of the Chain, etc.

However, during British rule in the 1920s and 1930s, Arab bigots succeeded in driving Jews out of all Old City quarters except the Jewish Quarter. Likewise, the series of pogroms under the British drove Jews out of several Jewish neighborhoods outside the walls, not to mention the Jews driven out of mixed neighborhoods. Acts of "ethnic cleansing" by Arabs also took place elsewhere in the country, such as Hebron where 67 Jews were massacred (1929).

When Jordan controlled part of Jerusalem (1948 to 1967), Jewish graves were desecrated in the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and Jews were kept away from the Jewish holy places and from Jewish archeological sites, not from the Western Wall but the Tomb of Simon the Just, a focus of Jewish

pilgrimage before 1948. The Jewish neighborhoods adjacent to the tomb were "ethnically cleansed" early in 1948. Ashrawi's argument is especially cynical since her family is reported to have taken possession of Jewish real estate near this tomb during Jordanian rule.

Ashrawi and company seem to want to continue the process of de-Judeization that was interrupted in 1967. Further, the calls by PLO supporters to divide Jerusalem are hypocritical. Can anyone imagine Arabs or Moslems agreeing to divide a city where they are a majority? In the days of Moslem imperial power, Moslems had no compunction about ruling as a minority over a non-Moslem majority. Consider Jerusalem under Ottoman rule. When the sultan set up a municipality in the 1870s, the mayors appointed were never Jews despite the Jewish majority.

ELLIOTT A. GREEN
Jerusalem.

An education in realism

EFRAIM INBAR

The government is right to build Har Homa in Jerusalem, for the simple reason that Israel wants to keep Jerusalem united under Israel sovereignty.

This is a case where Israel has full, formal freedom of action, and where a large majority of Israelis can easily be mobilized in favor of construction within the municipal area of their capital.

The government needs to show it is undeterred in the face of Palestinian threats. More than that, it must declare that violence organized by the Palestinian Authority is simply unacceptable after Oslo.

Har Homa could become a turning point in Israeli-Palestinian relations by projecting Israeli determination and reversing the trend of Palestinian gains without much reciprocity. If building goes ahead without significant opposition, it will be a clear victory for Israel in Jerusalem.

But if Israel's warnings go unheeded and the building at Har Homa elicits a violent response — similar to what happened in September 1996, when Palestinian security forces shot at Israeli soldiers — then it will become an opportunity for a strong military riposte, regaining deterrence and teaching the Palestinians about Israeli red lines it could be costly to cross.

Following a violent Palestinian breach of Oslo, Israel should not hesitate to attack important Palestinian targets, like Dahaniya airport in Gaza. Built in violation

of Oslo and against our wishes, the airport could be destroyed from the air without the lives of Israeli soldiers being endangered.

Provoked, Israel could also decide to retake a slice of territory in Area A, which is fully under Yasser Arafat's control. This would transmit the clear signal that certain provocations could make withdrawal reversible.

The area north of Jericho.

A strong military response to violence following building at Har Homa would make a lot of sense

sparsely populated by Arabs but threatening Israeli control over the Jordan Rift, is very suitable for Israeli appropriation, with little risk.

Israel is good at special operations, and the PA offers a large number of vulnerable targets.

THE lessons of September need to be implemented in preparing an imaginative, daring menu of possible strong military responses.

Such reaction to any outbreak of Palestinian violence following building at Har Homa would make sense not only strategically, but also politically.

Recent research into Israeli public opinion shows that it would significantly support military action in reaction to Palestinian violence, even more so than to other challenges.

Public backing is certain should the government opt for measured force in reaction to Palestinian attempts to obstruct Israeli efforts to exercise their legitimate rights in Jerusalem.

For the time being, the Palestinians have managed to ignore the costs incurred by their misbehavior. The price Arafat paid for Palestinian violence in September was perceived as low, set against what he achieved. It is high time Israel upped the price.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that weakness invites aggression and additional violations of agreements. Concessions whet Israeli appetites, while strong Israeli responses educate the Palestinians to lower their expectations in the peace process to more realistic levels.

In the past, only a measure of realism could induce the Palestinians to move along the road of reconciliation with the Jewish state.

Our fostering a realistic approach — even if it requires measured force — is critical for the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

The writer is associate professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of the university's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

STALIN

The man behind the myth

When Edvard Radzinsky was growing up in the Soviet Union after World War II, Josef Stalin was a remote, god-like figure. But his playwright father used to tell him that one day he would write a book about the mysterious "Boss."

Now, more than 40 years after the Soviet dictator died alone in a pool of his own urine as his terrified aides awaited his orders, Russia's most popular historian has fulfilled his father's prediction.

Granted rare access to the President's Archive and other closely guarded documents, Radzinsky spent years researching his book, Stalin, which is already available in English and many other languages and will shortly come out in Russian.

"This is the secret Stalin, the Stalin hidden from us for half a century," Radzinsky explained. He said he'd expected a "wild reaction" when the expanded Russian-language version of the

book is published this spring. He has already whetted the Russian public's appetite with a series of historical television documentaries.

"I specifically did not want to divide the country over Stalin — who still evokes powerful emotions here — but to build up a careful and balanced picture of him," Radzinsky said.

Like many Russians, Radzinsky is still fascinated by the man who sent untold millions to their graves or to concentration camps while turning a backward rural land into a nuclear-armed superpower at the center of an expanding communist empire. Soldiers marched into battle with his name on their lips and prisoners in the vast Gulag he created wept when he died. As a child, he was a hero to his father, a leader, Winston Churchill — who spoke of an almost extraterrestrial force lifting people to their feet when Stalin entered a room — to Russian novelist Boris Pasternak felt the power of his charm.

Yet just a few years after his death, Stalin was denounced by his own comrades as a cruel monster who had betrayed the ideals of the Russian Revolution.

"I wanted to find out what motivated Stalin, why he did what he did and why he created a country like the Soviet Union," said Radzinsky, who is also a successful playwright. He rejects claims, still popular in some Western leftist circles, that Stalin was paranoid and that he subverted the revolutionary legacy of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin. "He was too clever, too sly, too adequate to be mentally sick. He had the psychology of an oriental despot," he says.

"But he was a genuine Marxist and revolutionary, the best stu-

dent of Lenin among all the Bolshevik leaders. He understood best how to seize and to keep power," he added. Quoting the diary of Maria Svanidze, sister-in-law of Stalin's first wife Ekaterina, he said "the Russian people need a tsar."

Until now, Radzinsky has been best known in Russia and abroad for The Last Tsar, a dramatic account of the fall of the Romanov dynasty and the Bolsheviks' murder of Nicholas II and his family. A play based on the book is now showing in Moscow. Ironically, Stalin triumphed by setting up an autocratic regime beyond the wildest dreams of Nicholas and his forebears.

In his final years, Stalin was a lonely, unhappy man. The truth was that he had had most of his friends shot.

Radzinsky also painstakingly chronicles the story of Stalin, the man — his Georgian childhood, his wives and friends, his black sense of humor, his love of nocturnal drinking parties.

WHEN STALIN already had the vast country in his iron grip, in 1935, the former seminary student visited his pious peasant mother in Tbilisi, who asked him what he was doing in distant Moscow. Stalin said: "Do you remember the tsar? Well I am a bit like that." Unimpressed, his mother retorted: "You would have done better to have become a priest."

In his final years, supreme at home and abroad, Stalin was a lonely, unhappy man. "He would complain that he was surrounded

by great men but there was nobody to sit down with for a cup of tea." The truth was that he had had most of his friends shot.

Perhaps the most controversial claim made in Radzinsky's book is that Stalin was already drawing up plans to trigger a third world war just before his death on March 1, 1953. Citing Czech archival evidence, Radzinsky said Stalin wanted to strike against the West while the communist bloc, fresh from triumphs in China and North Korea, held what he regarded as a temporary advantage. Radzinsky says the deportation of the Soviet Union's Jewish population to Siberia was intended to spark a conflict with the United States.

When Radzinsky began writing his book, in 1991, he said people laughed at him. "Who wants to hear about Stalin now, they would ask me as the Soviet Union collapsed about our ears," Radzinsky, with his dramatist's sense of timing, replied. "By the time I finish the book, Stalin will be back [in fashion]."

Stalin's image is now a familiar part of the regular demonstrations and rallies held by Russians who have lost out during the country's move to democracy and a market economy.

Stalin's sympathizers — a motley crew of communists, nationalists, and even monarchists and devout Orthodox believers — have indirectly helped push the Russian government to adopt a more conservative stance on many issues. He said that many Russians, even within the liberal intelligentsia, felt nostalgic for the material security and sense of purpose of Stalin's time.

Radzinsky's next project is a book about Grigory Rasputin, the mysterious monk who wielded great influence at the Romanov court on the eve of the



Russian revolution.

As Russia prepares to mark the 80th anniversary of the tsar's abdication and the communist revolution, Radzinsky said he had noted eerie parallels between past and present during his research for the Rasputin

book. "We have come full circle. Now, as then, there is rampant official corruption, huge fortunes to be made, a loss of faith in authority, and the rise of adventurers and astrologers." But asked about Russia's future, he was more cautious. "In 1917

nobody predicted that the monarchy would collapse overnight or that the Bolsheviks would come to power or keep it," he said. "It is dangerous to try to predict Russia's future."

(Reuters)

GRAPEVINE

Sara off to a running start in Amman

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Sara Netanyahu's penchant for mini skirts can prove embarrassing at times.

The Prime Minister's wife probably wished she'd worn a maxi after seeing the photographs of herself with Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim al-Kabarti. Prominently exposed: a rum in her pantyhose.

PERHAPS SHE should take a lesson in style from Palina Torna.

Petite and matchstick slim, the bridal-wear and evening-gown designer, who came here from France five years ago, was totally dwarfed by former Miss Israel Nicole Halperin, who led her up the catwalk following a successful showing in Tel Aviv this week.

Although Torna was wearing exaggerated platform soles, she barely reached the top of Halperin's rib-cage — but she walked with much more grace

than the professional models. Young and beautiful, she would make a great model herself if height was not one of the essential prerequisites.



CANADA AND Israel launched a new era of cultural cooperation in style on Monday night with a gala performance by Canadian dance sensation Margie Gillis, Israeli modern dancer Rina Schenfeld and the Batsheva

Dance Company. Gillis and Schenfeld presented a jointly choreographed new work entitled "Dream" at the first ever Canada-Israel Cultural Benefit.



Mrs. Netanyahu reveals more than she intended during her chat with Jordan's prime minister. (Reuters)

Proceeds from the evening's ticket sales are earmarked for a new binational cultural fund.

The performance at the Suzanne Dellal Centre was held in the presence of Canada's Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton, Canadian Ambassador David Berger, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Tel Aviv-Jaffo Mayor Roni Milo. Eggleton was leading a major Canadian trade delegation.

VETERAN DANCE critic Dora Sowden will be honored on March 12 at a special tribute at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University co-hosted by the Rubin Music Academy and The Jerusalem Post.

Though officially retired, she still continues to write and to travel throughout the country and abroad to see people expressing themselves through her

favorite art form.

PEOPLE WHO meet cosmetician Alona Shechter, whose beauty preparations based on natural plant oils and Dead Sea minerals are increasingly gaining in popularity, do a double take.

The glamorous Shechter, who now also runs a production company specializing in pageants and fashion shows, is featured in her posters and publicity pamphlets as a redhead, but these days her hair is a light shade of blonde.

TELEVISION PERSONALITY Michael Yonai stole the show at Castro's lunchtime fashion show for Israel Air Force female personnel, the wives of IAF male personnel and the female employees of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality, who got together slightly ahead of time to celebrate International Women's Day.

The venue was the foyer of the Mann Auditorium. Some of the women brought their chil-

dren who promptly crowded Yonai — who was there as an unofficial guest — and begged for her autograph.

Earlier in the morning, Yehuda Poliker readjusted his biological clock to serenade the ladies with a 90-minute concert. As a rule, his performances usually start 12 hours later in the day.

JERUSALEM'S RENAISSANCE Hotel is starting to look like home to Professor Kalman Mann, head of the Yehuda Poliker and former director general of the Hadassah Medical Organization. This week, he attended the wedding of his daughter Yael to Shimon Wechsman, and on March 4 and 5 he will preside over Yehuda's national conference at the same venue.

DIETERS LONG ago discovered that it's not important what works for someone else. What counts is what works for you. In the case of Demi Moore, it's microwaved popcorn spiced with chili powder. The popcorn is non-fattening and the chili powder apparently kills the appetite

and temporarily neutralizes the taste buds.

NYPD STAR Jimmy Smits was fine on the action and the dialogue when shooting a new episode of the popular series. What he forgot to do was apply the hand brake to the police car that he had to jump out of. The result was that the car rolled forward and crashed into a parked vehicle.

WHAT DO Julia Roberts and Gena Amir have in common? Not much except George. Amir wrote an article in the current issue of the publication owned by John Kennedy Jr. and Roberts posed for pictures in another issue. Amir faced criticism from the media at home. As for Roberts, the whole thing went to her head. Her hair was colored silver for the shoot. This didn't bother her since she was assured that it would wash out. But it took two days of shampooing before the silver disappeared. She could have saved herself a lot of time and trouble with a simple bottle of hair dye.

PARENTING

Power Wheels or power play?

By RUTH MASON

Our son wants Power Wheels — a battery-operated car to drive in — for his third birthday. It costs about NIS 5,000. We want to get him what he wants, but we don't want to spoil him. Is there any educational value to buying this toy? Is buying this spoiling him? Money is not an issue.

Karen Goldberg, MSW, certified psychotherapist and family therapist, in private practice in Maccabim and Ramat, replies:

Money may not be an issue as far as spending it, but it would be worth your while to ask yourselves what message you will be giving your child if you buy him such an expensive toy. That he can get whatever he wants? That there are no limits?

Several issues need to be raised here. At what stage of development is your three-year-old? In other areas of your (and his) life, does he get everything he asks for? Does he know the word "no"? How are you helping him learn limits and how do you, as parents, deal with limit-setting? Is your three-year-old testing you?

At this stage of development, a child normally spends much of his time testing his parents. Has he experienced and have you passed the "terrible twos," the period of temper tantrums — throwing himself on the

floor in a rage in the middle of the local mall or screaming in a restaurant? Some children "finish" by age three but many do not. Even though a child cannot admit it, he is looking for limits. He needs to hear the word "no." He needs to learn what your values are.

This is the time for you to begin to instill in your child such values as where you want to spend your money, what is important to you, what is not acceptable and why. Does spending a lot of money on your child make you a better parent? Saying "no" does not make you a bad parent. In fact, if you believe in what you are saying, you will convey this clearly to your child.

He will understand what you are saying, even if not at this very minute.

Ask yourself why your child is asking for this toy. Because he saw it on TV or in a store and because it looks like fun? Well, why not? It probably is lots of fun. But there are other ways to have fun. There are other ways for you to show your love for your child. Shortly after you leave the store, or when the ad on TV finishes, your child will probably book up to the next "fun item."

As an adult, you want many things you cannot have or will not buy for yourself. Why not convey those same limits to your child? Children learn their beliefs about the world

around them based on what you, as parents, have conveyed to them, including: "My parents love me whether or not they spend lots of money on me," or, "My parents have always spent lots of money on me — that's their way of showing me they love me; they don't have time for me."

How do you want your children to think about you? In their early years, children are given the foundation for later personality traits — being an all-out spender, being thrifty, being stingy, buying on impulse, saving for something special and meaningful, "keeping up with the Cohens," buying "just because I like it," spending money in proportion to the specialness of the occasion, etc.

And, if you buy the Power Wheels, how long before the special effects wear off? For the first few days or weeks he will ride it all the time and may have trouble sharing it. Then, the uniqueness wears off and he becomes interested again in his other toys or in the next "hot item" on TV or in the store. Do you then buy him that as well?

Be clear in your thinking and you will be clear in the message you give to your child. Many happy birthdays have been spent with cake, ice cream, friends and less expensive gifts that are cherished just as much by the children.

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

"Jazz Birds"

An evening of Jazz Music
Raz Sekeles, Alex Zhuravski,
Bob Yerochkin, Gideon Pesahov.

March 1
Concert at 20:30
Wine and Cheese at 20:00

Admission NIS 45; Museum members, olim, students, soldiers & seniors NIS 40. Proceeds benefit The Jerusalem Post Funds.

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Trumpet, Violin and Piano Concert.
Works by Bach, Albinoni, Mozart and Tchaikovsky.



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BUSINESS

in brief

UK to privatize London Underground

Transport Secretary Sir George Young confirmed yesterday that the Conservative government will privatize London's underground railway network if it wins Britain's coming election. Young told parliament the government would publish a policy white paper in the summer setting out the details of its sell-off proposals.

The minister said that, for the first time in a privatization, proceeds of the sell-off will be recycled into investment, ensuring that the modernization of the underground's infrastructure is completed as soon as possible.

Buyers of the "tube" will be contractually committed to modernize the system, with a guaranteed level of support from the government to supplement the private investment.

The overall aim would be to have eliminated London Underground's investment backlog within five years of privatization, he said.

Fares will be capped for the first time, with average fare increases pegged to the level of inflation for the first four years after the sell-off. *Reuters*

US-Argentina row over footwear duties

A World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel has been established to rule on a US complaint that Argentine duties on footwear, textiles and apparel are excessive, a spokesman for the WTO said yesterday.

The US trade delegation, speaking to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body, said Argentina's duties were in excess of Argentina's tariff commitments, according to trade sources.

While bilateral talks last November resulted in Argentina revising its labelling requirements to satisfy US concerns, Washington objected to Argentina's specific duties on various textile, apparel or footwear items in excess of the bound rate of 35 percent. *Reuters*

Russia offers giant Dukut silver plant for sale

Russia opened an investment tender yesterday for its financially troubled Dukut silver mining complex, developer of the former Soviet Union's largest silver mine, by offering a 49% stake. Bids for the tender, which replaces an earlier sale that was declared invalid, would be accepted through April 1 with results to be made available April 2. The tender offers 139.58 million shares at a starting price of 10,000 roubles (NIS 6). *Reuters*

COMPANY RESULTS

Nice Systems net sharply up

Nice Systems Ltd. yesterday reported a 1996 net income of \$5.2m, compared to \$318,000 in 1995. Annual revenues were up 90% to \$39.8m, compared to \$21m. in 1995.

For the fourth quarter, the Tel Aviv maker of telephony management products reported almost fourfold growth in net income to \$1.9m, compared to \$481,000 in the corresponding period one year ago. Revenues for the quarter jumped 87% to \$11.6m, against \$6.2m. in the same period in 1995.

Company Chairman David Arzi said the quarterly results continue the trend set in the first three quarters of the year, adding that the company expects to further penetrate the international marketplace.

Nice Systems provides solutions for logging, monitoring and managing the flow of information sent via phone, fax and computer. The company's clients include financial institutions, call centers, securities traders, law firms and air-traffic control sites. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Memco Software enters the black

Memco Software Ltd., a Tel Aviv-based maker of information-security products, entered the black in 1996, with net income totalling \$3.38m, compared to a loss of \$2.46m. in 1995. The company's revenue increased nearly tenfold for the year to \$15.31m, compared to \$1.55m. one year ago.

Net income for the fourth quarter of 1996 totalled \$1.73m, versus a loss of \$380,000 in the same period last year. Revenue for the quarter was up from \$1.09m. last year to \$6.17m.

The company attributed its results to the market's increasing awareness about the need for software that protects companies against information hackers.

"Our fourth quarter results reflect rapid market acceptance of our products and technology, showing increased awareness to server security as the cornerstone of an overall security strategy," Israel Mazin, Memco's chief executive, said in a statement.

The company also said it increased its presence in markets such as telecommunications, utilities and government and gained new inroads in Europe through deals in Italy, France and the UK.

Memco's software is designed to address security concerns. The company has distribution agreements with Tivoli Systems and Platinum Technology. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Industrial growth slowed to 5.5% in '96

By DAVID HARRIS

Industrial production (excluding diamonds) grew by 5.5 percent in 1996, a sharp drop in comparison to the 8.5% growth rate registered in 1995, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

Growth averaged a monthly 0.4% in the first quarter, 0.2% in the second and third, with 0.3% between October and December. Growth in exports also rose 5.5% in 1996, according to government figures.

Of the various sectors, the highest growth rate was registered in the electronic communications equipment industry at 18% (50% of which was export-related), electronic components manufacture saw a 15% rise (75% from exports), jewelry and similar luxury items increased 17% (45% from exports), and growth in the chemicals industry totalled 11%.

There was no change in the growth rate in the food and drinks sector. Growth slowed in the shoe and leather industry, where it was 9% below the rate it set last year. The textiles and clothing industries set growth that dipped 4% below last year's growth.

Meanwhile, the number of people directly employed in industry increased 1.5% during 1996 by some 5,000.

These figures were published 24 hours after the Central Bureau of Statistics confirmed fears of increasing unemployment. The ranks of the jobless rose to 7.3% of the workforce in the last quarter of 1996.

Three major reasons explain the slowdown in industrial-production growth, according to Hebrew University economist Professor Ephraim Kleiman - the amount of goods exported, the after-effects of immigration, and

the peace process. With the signing of agreements with the PA and Jordan there was an immediate sense of euphoria, which resulted in an increase in foreign trade and also created greater demand at home. However, the euphoria is now wearing off and it is difficult to repeat the same year-on-year growth levels, Kleiman said.

During the initial stages of absorption, many of the immigrants in the most recent wave of aliya, who now comprise more than 15% of the total population, spent money on new homes, furnishings, motor vehicles and other items. This led to an immediate increase in demand, which was met by increased production.

However, that initial spending has largely ceased, in addition to which new immigrant numbers are rapidly dwindling from their peak in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Step forward for Canada-Israel trade

Canadian International Trade Minister Art Eggleton (right) and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky sign yesterday on a cooperation agreement between the Canadian and Israeli Manufacturers' associations. The agreement, which is expected to increase trade, calls for the exchange of information, advancement of certain projects and the creation of bilateral seminars.

Sources: Hapoalim to be sold by fall

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The sale of a controlling share in Bank Hapoalim will be completed within six months, government sources said yesterday, following the Treasury's decision to reopen the tender for the sale of the country's largest bank.

MI Holdings, the state-owned company in charge of selling the government's banks, is expected to publish advertisements in the press next week, inviting potential bidders to take part in the sale process for the country's largest bank. The

government intends to sell a parcel of shares amounting to at least 25 percent of its stake in the bank, or 20% of the bank itself. The government currently controls 76.7% of Bank Hapoalim's shares.

The tender will be held open for 45 days after publication of the tender, during which time contenders will have to notify MI Holdings in writing of their intentions. Potential participants will also be required to make a deposit as a token of the seriousness of their intentions to purchase the shares.

The conclusion of the sale will be subject to the approval of the Bank of Israel, the government and the Knesset Finance Committee. The Bank of Israel will commence procedures to approve the candidates as soon as the tender closes.

"The Bank of Israel said it intends to complete the process as soon as possible. 'Since most of the candidates have applied for approval in the past, we expect the process to be short,' said a Bank of Israel spokesman.

So far, the Bank of Israel's

supervisor of banks has been officially approached by only one consortium, the Jeffrey-Kell and Eliezer Fishman group. A second consortium which has expressed interest in taking part in the tender is headed by the Arison group. That group also includes the US Hyperion investment fund, US investor Len Abrahamson, the Claridge Group and the Dankner group. Businessman Tobi Arison and the Claridge Group already have the Bank of Israel's permission to purchase a bank.

In related news, the government intends to go ahead with the sale of its shares in Bank Leumi in May. The sale of its shares in Bank Discount is scheduled for April.

No end in sight for oil slump

By RICHARD MARLY

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil's sudden bellyflop could see crude prices sink still further in the coming weeks before rising spring gasoline demand in the United States comes to the rescue, traders and analysts said yesterday.

Oil producer celebrations in the wake of the sustained bull run which took crude to a six-year high in late October have turned sour in the space of a six-week, 22 percent slide in the value of crude. International benchmark North

Sea Brent yesterday stood at \$19.30 a barrel, down \$5.50 since early January.

Traders blame a combination of rising Iraqi oil sales and a mild northern hemisphere winter for oil's sharp swallow dive.

"We've had a short, mild winter and a reduction in crude demand because of refinery maintenance combined with an increase in supply from Iraq," said Russell Hill, senior crude trader at OMV.

"For the first time in a long time the market is in surplus. I think there's about a 30% possibility of \$18 within a matter of weeks."

"Our feeling is that by about the end of March the market could well be looking at \$17," said an analyst with London's Natwest Securities.

"We think the market will come off significantly over the next few weeks, but that could prove to be its low point for the year." Dealers said falling prices were forcing Iraq to export more to meet a cash target permitted under the United Nations oil-for-food exchange which started in December.

Iraq is allowed to export a billion dollars' worth of crude by March 9, followed by a second billion by early June when the deal comes up for review at the UN.

"The effect is to destabilize the

market," said OMV's Hill.

"The more Iraq sells the more the price falls and the more Iraq must sell to hit its target." "We expect continuous pressure on oil prices in spite of the already steep decline," said Salomon Brothers in a report.

Iraqi crude now is fetching less than \$18 a barrel in Europe compared to \$23 when Baghdad moved its first exports under the deal in mid-December.

Analysts' back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest Iraqi exports would need to run at up to 800,000 bpd over the next week and a half to reach the interim cash target. Iraq's exports in January ran at about 500,000 bpd.

"It's hard to find reasons to buy and under those circumstances it looks like a one-way trip. It's just a question of how far and how fast," said analyst Geoff Pyne at finance house UBS.

Oil equity analysts say crude's weakness will put further pressure on oil company shares, already down sharply versus other sectors since early February.

Further ahead, however, oil prices could stage a significant recovery, buoyed by rising demand, especially for gasoline in the United States, the analysts said.

Highest-paid public exec resigns

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The highest monthly salary earner in the public sector, attorney Michael Zelman, resigned as general manager of Kamit, the state-owned road-accident victims compensation fund, the Treasury said yesterday.

Zelman's resignation comes on the heels of public pressure after the executive found himself at the center of tax-evasion allegations.

Zelman, who managed Kamit for more than 21 years, was recently arrested by the Income Tax Authority on suspicion of concealing income of more than NIS 1 million from 1988-1995.

In a letter to Treasury Director-General David Broder, who is also chairman of Kamit, Zelman said he was forced to resign his NIS 67,359 a month post because of the income tax investigation and press attacks on him. Zelman said recent developments are likely to hinder his ability to serve as manager of Kamit.

"In spite of the fact that what is being discussed is at the investigation stage and despite the fact that it has nothing to do with my position as general manager of Kamit, it seems to me that it will be a good move to resign as general manager of the fund and the board of management," said Zelman.

Zelman could not be reached for comment. A Treasury spokesman confirmed the resignation.

Two weeks ago, Zelman was arrested on suspicion of tax evasion. Zelman was released on NIS 1.8m. bail and a stay of exit order for 180 days was issued against him.

According to tax authority investigators, Zelman supplied advisory services to some of the country's leading companies, institutions and businessmen dealing in compensation to road-accident victims. He failed to report the income in his annual income-tax returns in the years 1988 to 1995.

Zelman's jobs in addition to Kamit include the Avner insurance company, where he is legal adviser on injuries and damages from road accidents, serving as director of several companies traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and as a public director in other bodies.

Zelman also is charged with not reporting hundreds of thousands of shekels he earned renting out apartments and houses between 1990 and 1995. He also is suspected of falsifying documents so he could get a tax deduction.

Egypt trims cotton controls

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt appears to be softening its stand on the lucrative cotton market and may soon end its domestic monopoly on the crop by subsidizing private sector traders, officials and traders said.

Public Administration Minister Atef Obeid told a meeting of private and public sector cotton traders the state was studying a proposal to pay the difference between export prices and the higher minimum price paid to farmers, to let private traders back into the market.

Subsidies were instituted to encourage cotton growing for export.

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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
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German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	1.825		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (¥10 million yen)					
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CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.8065	3.8065		3.6411	
U.S. dollar	3.3105	3.3839	3.25	3.42	3.3590
German mark	1.2750	1.2750	1.24	1.24	1.2528
Pound sterling	5.4135	5.5069	5.32	5.58	5.4891
French franc	0.5854	0.5849	0.57	0.61	0.5911
Japanese yen (100)	2.7183	2.7602	2.65	2.80	2.7422
Dutch florin	1.7562	1.7846	1.72	1.81	1.7734
Swiss franc	2.2884	2.3030	2.22	2.34	2.2884
Swedish krona	0.4479	0.4522	0.44	0.47	0.4518
Norwegian krona	0.4955	0.5045	0.48	0.52	0.5015
Danish krone	0.5177	0.5261	0.50	0.54	0.5225
Finland mark	0.5825	0.5922	0.58	0.62	0.5988
Canadian dollar	2.4328	2.4721	2.38	2.51	2.4561
Australian dollar	2.5701	2.6118	2.42	2.55	2.5025
S. African rand	0.7501	0.7522	0.68	0.77	0.7559
Belgian franc (10)	0.5858	0.5922	0.58	0.62	0.5988
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8090	2.8513	2.76	2.90	2.8228
Italian lire (1000)	1.3851	1.4100	1.35	1.42	1.3737
Jordanian dinar	0.4000	0.4000	0.34	0.38	0.3737
Egyptian pound	3.8358	3.8975	3.75	4.02	3.8717
ECU	5.2351	5.3440	5.18	5.42	5.3120
Irish punt	2.3527	2.3704	2.29	2.41	2.3548
Spanish peseta (100)					

*These rates vary according to bank.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TSE ISSUES

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Lists top 100 TSE issues.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Large table listing international shares in New York with columns for share names and prices.

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Continuation of international shares.

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Continuation of international shares.

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Continuation of international shares.

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Continuation of international shares.

TASE ROUNDUP

Share prices decline on political uncertainty

Mishtanim 252.79 ▼ -2.95% Maof 261.72 ▼ -2.95%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Shares dropped as investors felt concern about the government's

Key Representative Rates

Table with 2 columns: Rate Name, Rate Value. Includes US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Last Price. Includes DJ Industrials, DJ 30, and S&P 500.

NYSE STOCKS

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name, Last Price. Includes Declines, Advances, and Volume.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Last Price. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Last Price. Includes Pound, Swiss Franc, and others.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity Name, Last Price. Includes Cocoa, Coffee, and Wheat.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity Name, Last Price. Includes Cocoa, Coffee, and Wheat.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 2 columns: Metal Name, Last Price. Includes Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 2 columns: Metal Name, Last Price. Includes Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with 2 columns: Metal Name, Last Price. Includes Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

CommStock Trading Ltd.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem

Tel. 02-624-4963, 03-575-8828/27

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Source: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 25-FEB-97)

In local currencies

plans to build a new neighborhood in Har Homa. Investors also are

watching nervously as the Bar-On

affair investigation unfolds. Others were disappointed by the

0.3 percentage point cut in the central bank made in its benchmark

lending rate yesterday.

The shekel also strengthened against the dollar, which hurts

exporters. Of the 25 members of the Maof Index of most-traded

shares, 24 dropped. Elco Holdings Ltd. fell 4.25% at NIS 0.96.

Among the chemicals producers, Dead Sea Bromine Ltd. fell

0.25% to NIS 22.6. Dead Sea Works Ltd. slipped 2.25% to NIS

10.7. Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd. shed 3.25% to NIS

79.3. Israel Chemicals Ltd. went down 5% at NIS 3.8, and

Makhteshim Chemical Works Ltd. lost 4% to NIS 19.21. Clal Israel

Ltd. fell 4.25% at NIS 0.96.

Mashov, parent of Magic Software Enterprises Ltd., skidded

9% to NIS 4.24. Magic's shares, traded on Nasdaq, dropped 12%

after the company reported fourth-quarter net income fell to 19 cents

a share from 23 cents. Shekem declined 7.5% to NIS

1.3. (Bloomberg)

That's 22% less than the month's daily average of NIS

181.4m, and 15% less than the year's average of NIS 165.7m.

The most-active stock was Koor, down 2% to NIS 326.9 as it traded

NIS 9.1m. of shares. Teva was right behind at NIS 9m. The stock

also fell 2% to NIS 194.2. Teva reported fourth-quarter earnings

of 49 cents a share against the year-earlier 31 cents and against

analysts' average estimate of 48 cents.

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1.3. (Bloomberg)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

US boosts Eurobourses

LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares fell short of a record high yesterday

but still managed solid gains as investors continued to hope that the

market's appetite for equities had not yet been satisfied. A sluggish

start on Wall Street and market nerves ahead of Federal Reserve

chief Alan Greenspan's testimony before the US Congress today, pre-

vented a record close, leaving the FTSE 100 index of leading stocks

up 13.6 points to 4,344.7.

FRANKFURT - German shares surged ahead over a lively bourse

session yesterday, propelled by

overnight Wall Street gains. The 30-share DAX index ended up 49

points, or 1.54%, at 3,223.21 points, while the IBIS DAX index

was also stronger in early afternoon trade, up 49 points at

3,235.36 points.

PARIS - French shares closed sharply higher yesterday with a

1.55% gain as the blue-chip index moved back into 2,600 territory,

fueled by a Monday gain on Wall Street and a solid dollar. The blue-

chip CAC-40 index closed was up 39.87 points or 1.55% at

2,607.72.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow rises 30 points

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks rallied late in the trading session

yesterday, but the market still had a cautious tone ahead of today's

Congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan

Greenspan.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 29.63 points at

7,037.83, which was within flirting distance of its record close of

7,067.46 set a week ago. On Monday, the Dow rose 77 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin

on active volume of 529 million shares on the New York Stock

Exchange.

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Magic No. is 22 as Israel faces Belarus

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The magic number for Israel's national basketball team tonight as it faces host Belarus is 22, the margin by which coach Zvi Scherf's club won when the two clubs first met. As long as Israel wins, or loses by 22 or less, it qualifies for this summer's European championships in Spain.

While that may seem an easy task, the Belarus players have not completely given up on their chances to make the trip to Spain, so Scherf & Co. are likely to have a tough battle on their hands.

Former Maccabi Tel Aviv star and current Hapoel Jerusalem player Motti Daniel has announced he'll be quitting the national team after a 149-game run as a member of the squad. Daniel will surely be missed, but hopefully will want to go out in style versus Belarus.

Scherf has added red-hot Lior Arditi of Bnei

Herzliya to the roster, which should also help. Arditi is a fine defender and can also put the ball in the basket, and is expected to take up some of the slack of missing team captain Doron Jamchee, who is out with an injury.

Adi Gordon is expected to carry a large part of the offense, and judging by his recent form in European play, he should be primed for another big game.

For Belarus, several key players will be missing. Star Valery Denenko has taken out Russian citizenship and will be unavailable, and several key Belarus players are currently playing on US college teams.

However, Ruslan Boidakov from Dynamo Moscow and Igor Grizuk from Polish club Nobiles will reportedly be back on the Belarus club after missing their team's loss to Georgia.

The game will be broadcast live on Channel 1 beginning at 9:10 p.m.

Jordan leads Bulls past Portland

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 30 of his 37 points in the first half Monday night as the Chicago Bulls extended their winning streak to seven games with a 116-89 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Scottie Pippen added 22 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for the Bulls, who are 49-6 overall and 26-1 at the United Center. They have won 19 consecutive home games.

The Trail Blazers were without second-leading scorer J.R. Rider, who missed the game due to the death of his cousin. In addition, Rasheed Wallace didn't start because he was late for Portland's morning shootaround. Gary Trent led the Blazers with 14 points.

Magic 93, Pistons 84

Penny Hardaway scored 29

points and host Orlando remained unbeaten under interim coach Richie Adubato by ending Detroit's six-game winning streak.

The Magic improved to 4-0 since Adubato replaced Brian Hill, who was fired last week.

Hardaway atoned for a poor performance in a road loss at Detroit on February 12 by going 11-for-16 from the field, including 4-of-6 from behind the 3-point arc. Ronny Seikaly was the only other player in double figures for Orlando, finishing with 19 points and eight rebounds.

Theo Ratliff led Detroit with 17 points. Grant Hill, who had a triple double with 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists the last time the teams played, struggled with 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists this time.

Hawks 106, Warriors 100

Christian Laettner scored 25 points and Mookie Blaylock just missed a triple-double as Atlanta won at home.

Blaylock finished with 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the Hawks won for the 23rd time in 25 home games.

Laettner hit a jumper to give the Hawks a 98-96 lead with 2:30 left. Then Blaylock took over, scoring four points and making two steals for the Hawks down the stretch.

Hornets 96, Spurs 84

Glen Rice scored 33 points as visiting Charlotte extended its winning streak to five games.

Anthony Mason added 24 points and 16 rebounds for Charlotte, and Vladi Divac had 13 rebounds and nine blocks.

Only games scheduled.

Du Plessis new Springbok coach

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Former Springbok wing Carel du Plessis was named coach of the South African national rugby team yesterday.

Du Plessis succeeds Andre Markgraaff, who resigned last week after public disclosure of a taped telephone conversation in which he made racist remarks.

Markgraaff's resignation was the latest in a series of shocks for South African rugby after the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup in 1995.

By announcing Markgraaff's successor so quickly, and choos-

ing a popular former Springbok such as Du Plessis, the South African Rugby Football Union hoped to ease any lingering concern over the controversy and avoid more disruption in preparing for the upcoming season.

Du Plessis was Springbok team tactician on last year's tour to Argentina, France and Wales, said SARFU chief executive officer Riaan Oberholzer.

"Carel is a great leader and a visionary and he possesses a shrewd rugby mind," Oberholzer said in making the announcement. "We are confident that he can

knit the different strands of Springbok rugby together and come up with a winning combination." While Markgraaff was both coach and manager of the Springboks, du Plessis would only fill the coaching role and a new manager will be named later.

Under Markgraaff, who succeeded World Cup coach Kitch Christie, South Africa lost four straight Tests to New Zealand.

Markgraaff then cut popular captain Francois Pienaar from the side and led the Springboks on the unbeaten tour of Argentina, France and Wales.



MOMENTS OF SILENCE — Members of the German soccer team pause at a Yad Vashem exhibit yesterday.

(Isaac Herz)

Israel set for clash vs. Germany

By ORI LEWIS

The cool European-style weather currently sweeping the country is reflected in the lack of local enthusiasm for the national soccer team's clash with Germany today. While nobody in the home camp feels that the depleted Israeli side has any chance of overcoming the strong Germans, from an historic viewpoint too, this match is not taking on the emotional rivalries that might be expected, considering the traumatic past which the two nations represent.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf said in an interview on Germany's ARD television that the Holocaust is a thing of the past and that the match between his charges and the Germans should not take on the historic significance which everybody is trying to pin on it. "What's past is past," Scharf said in German.

The following day he was berated here for his comments, and apologized for that statement in the Israeli media. "What I meant to say was that we are playing against a new generation, and our relations with Germany are excellent. I don't need to be taught a lesson about the Holocaust, I lost a great number of relatives at the hands of the Nazis," he continued.

One of the veteran Israelis expected to open in the match, Eli Ohana, also downplayed the match's potential significance. "Of course the past should not be forgotten, but we are a new generation, many of our clubs train in Germany, we drive German cars and we use German-made appliances in our homes. The German's are a major force in world soccer and we will try to give them a good fight," Ohana was quoted in the local Hebrew press as having told ARD.

Yesterday the German team, accompanied by over 100 media personnel, traveled to Jerusalem to visit Yad Vashem, the Western Wall and the Knesset. "It was a very moving visit," German captain Juergen Klinsmann said of the visit to Yad Vashem. "We must make sure to pass on what happened during the Holocaust to the next generations in Germany so that such a thing never, ever happens again."

Scharf has his work cut out for the match. Israel will be without several key players, including creative midfielders Eyal Berkowitz and Haim Revivo, who failed to secure releases from Southampton and Spain's Celta Vigo respectively. Also missing is the injured Tal Ben Haim.

Hapoel Haifa, a battler in midfield who is generally seen as Israel's inspiration through his committed play and strong tackling.

Of the players available to Scharf, Ronnie Rosenzweig of Tottenham is seen as the man to cause panic in the German defense through his powerful runs. Ohana is the experienced striker whose coolness in front of the goal may prove decisive if Israel manages to create goalscoring situations. But Israel's brittle defense will be a far more worrying prospect from 19 games for Karlsruhe.

This is the biggest disappointment of my career," said the 24-year-old after learning that bruising in his right calf would keep him out of the match. Trainer Berti Vogts made it clear, however, that he did not consider the injury a major setback.

Dundee's absence means VFB Stuttgart's striker Fredi Bobic will resume his European championship partnership with Klinsmann. Vogts plans to try a more attacking formation than of late, with three offensive midfielders playing behind the striking pair.

The absence of Thomas Haessler, recovering from injury, and Mehmet Scholl, with a torn calf muscle, means a debut for terrier-like former East German midfielder Dariusz Woz. Woz, 27, has seven pre-1990 caps for East Germany. But he only forced his way into the reckoning for Vogts's pan-German squad this season with commanding performances which have propelled Bochum into the upper reaches of the first division.

Supporting the strikers along with Woz will almost certainly be playmaker Andy Moeller and Bayern Munich's mercurial Mario Basler, more often a substitute than a regular first choice regular for Vogts.

Vogts will use the friendly to give a run-out to second-choice goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, increasingly frustrated at his role as permanent understudy to Andreas Koepke.

Germany's probable line-up: Goalkeeper — Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich) Defense — Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund), Juergen Kohler (Borussia Dortmund), Thomas Strunz (Bayern Munich) Midfield — Dieter Elts (Werder Bremen), Christian Ziege (Bayern Munich), Mario Basler (Bayern Munich), Andreas Moeller (Borussia Dortmund), Dariusz Woz (Bochum) Attack — Juergen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich), Fredi Bobic (VFB Stuttgart)

Israel's probable lineup: Goalkeeper — Rafi Cohen (Hapoel Haifa) Defense — Felix Halfon (Hapoel Tel Aviv), Gadi Brumer (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Amir Shaleh (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Arik Benmado (Maccabi Haifa), David Amalek (Bnei Jerusalem) Midfield — Ran Ben-Shimon (Hapoel Haifa), Itzik Zohar (Bnei Jerusalem), Avi Nimni (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Ronnie Rosenzweig (Tottenham Hotspur) Attack — Eli Ohana (Bnei Jerusalem, captain)

for Scharf. He has assigned Maccabi Tel Aviv's Amir Shaleh the unenviable task of marking Klinsmann and Arik Benmado of Maccabi Haifa will keep a close eye on Fredi Bobic. Rosenzweig will mark Germany's playmaker, Matthias Sammer.

It is very important that we don't fall apart," Scharf said yesterday.

A last-minute injury has come between South African-born striker Sean Dundee and his chance to make his debut for the national side only a few weeks after gaining a German passport.

Dundee, who was naturalized under a fast-track procedure reserved for cases of "public interest," is the German first division's most prolific goalscorer this season with 14 goals

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Maccabi World Union changes with the times

By HEATHER CHAIT

The athletes may resemble their predecessors, with a bit more brawn and Reebok labels, but the aims of the Maccabi World Union have not stood still.

The dream of producing a muscular Jew after 2,000 years of depicting the Jew as the poor, pious scholar, has moved into its next phase," says Ronald Bakalarz, President of Maccabi World Union.

Bakalarz, a prolific businessman from Colombia, was in Israel to lead the Maccabi World Union congress, putting the final touches to plans for the 15th Maccabiah to be held from July 14-24.

The Maccabi movement, according to Bakalarz, is healthy, thriving and numbers 400,000 members across the globe, making it one of the largest Jewish organizations.

Behind its success has been the breaking-down of barriers and redefining the philosophy that once was Maccabi. "Maccabi today is for each country what it needs" says Bakalarz.

The original aim of promoting Jewish sportspeople, showing Jews as engaging in enjoyable activities also, has been modified in response to the issue of assimilation," says Bakalarz, as his smiling eyes take on a somber light behind his glasses.

"If we maintained our policy of having only top athletes in Maccabi, we would be alienating other less sports-minded Jews. So we opened our doors. Maccabi now offers social and cultural activities, with the idea of promoting Jewish continuity, not just excellence in sport."

In Latin America, Bakalarz's domain, Maccabi now offers theater, folk dancing and an atmosphere where a kid can just hang out with other Jews at the club restaurant.

"Our change of philosophy opens new possibilities for children to learn about Zionism."

The fruits have followed: Latin America's Maccabi movement now spans the ages of 3-100.

We are now selling our new image and idea of Jewish continuity. Maccabi is no longer a purely sports organization, but has divisions all over the world and is devoted to encouraging Zionism," explains Bakalarz.

Shearer sidelined after operation NEWCASTLE (Reuter) — The world's costliest player Alan Shearer had his third groin operation in nine months yesterday and will miss Newcastle's UEFA Cup quarter-final tie against Monaco next week.

Club spokesman Graham Courtney said it was impossible to say when the England striker would play again although his two previous similar operations each kept him out for around a month.

Shearer is the League's top scorer this season with 20 goals.

Bowe booted out of Marines, says Corps

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe didn't leave the Marines voluntarily, he was booted out of boot camp because he "refused to train," The Washington Post reported yesterday.

Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Rick Long in Parris Island, SC, said, "there were a lot of occasions when he was told to do something and he just said, 'No, I'm not going to do it.'"

Long told the Post he wanted to clarify reports that he said gave the impression that Bowe was allowed to leave the Marines last week after realizing that he had made a mistake by joining.

You don't sign a contract with the United States Marine Corps, come in here, start training, and then say, 'Oops, I think I want to go home' and then just leave," Long said.

It's not that easy," Bowe bowed out Friday, telling his drill instructor and battalion commander that the regimen was too strict, that he missed his family, that he wished he'd enlisted when he was younger.

At that time, Long was quoted as saying in describing the feelings of others at the camp, "The overall sentiment was one of respect for trying. From the Marines I talked to, they said he at least gave it a shot. That's more than you can say for some."

But Long was quoted in the Post as saying it became obvious that the 29-year-old multimillionaire was "a problem recruit" during his initial five days after processing, and that his behavior became worse last week when he refused to train.

It's just obstinacy, that's all," Long said.

Australia on hot streak

SOWETO (Reuter) — Australia, fired by an incisive new ball burst from Andrew Bichel and Jason Gillespie, completed its buildup to the first Test against South Africa with a fifth-straight win yesterday.

The touring team cruised to a 79-run victory against a Transvaal Invitation XI at the Elkhah Stadium, scoring 261 for seven in its 45 overs and dismissing the

local side for 182 with three overs left.

The game was over by the 10th over of Transvaal's reply when wicketkeeper Nic Potas was caught off Bichel without scoring, reducing his side to 29 for five.

Gillespie picked up two wickets but it was Bichel who did the real damage, removing Test player Adam Bacher for three.

SCOREBOARD

Monday's NHL results: Boston 3, Washington 3; Detroit 5, Phoenix 3.

Joseph Hoffman & Ori Lewis: Sports Editors

Weizman given royal welcome

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — The gusts of wind that swirled around Horse Guards Parade in central London yesterday appeared to sweep away a half-century of Anglo-Israeli acrimony as President Ezer Weizman was welcomed by Queen Elizabeth on the first day of the first state visit to Britain by an Israeli president.

Amid a 21-gun salute, the sun burst out of the steel-gray sky as the Israeli flag was raised alongside the Royal Standard at the parade ground at Whitehall, and the band of the First Battalion Scots Guards played Hatikva.

Then the queen introduced Weizman and his wife, Reuma, to others on the royal dais, including her husband, Prince Philip, the heads of the armed services and the police, Prime Minister John Major and two of his most



senior ministers, Home Secretary Michael Howard and Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, both of whom are Jewish.

But the highlight came toward the end of the ceremony when Scots Guards Commander Major Alastair Mathewson marched up to Weizman and formally invited him, in flawless Hebrew, to inspect the guard of honor.

Evidently surprised by the Hebrew, Weizman responded with a resounding "Toda rabo!"

With the pomp and ceremony of the welcome over, the fleet of

Rolls Royces that had brought the parties to Horse Guards Parade drove away and a fleet of horse-drawn landaus appeared to carry the royal family and their guests down the mile-long Mall, festooned with Israeli and British flags, to Buckingham Palace.

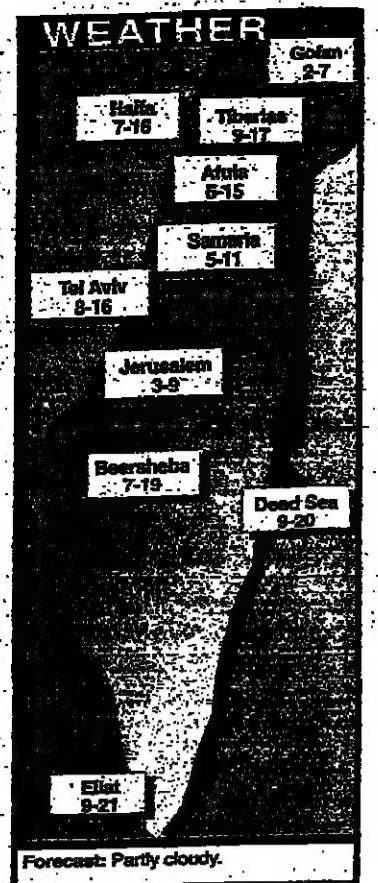
After a state lunch, Weizman visited Westminster Abbey, and was formally welcomed by Lord Mayor of Westminster Robert Davis at St. James's Palace, visited the queen mother at Clarence House and last night attended a state banquet in his honor given by the queen.

The festive mood was reflected in the *London Times*, which yesterday carried an editorial entitled "Natural Allies."

It declared that Weizman's visit was as welcome as it was overdue and it noted that it had come "at a time when relations are at last warm and close."



President Ezer Weizman rides with Britain's Queen Elizabeth in the State Carriage yesterday in central London at the start of his state visit to Britain. (AP)



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	08	48	rain
Berlin	08	48	rain
Buenos Aires	20	68	clear
Caro	18	48	clear
Chicago	11	12	clear
Copenhagen	08	27	rain
Frankfurt	08	27	rain
Helsinki	08	27	rain
Hong Kong	18	68	clear
London	18	68	clear
Los Angeles	14	67	clear
Madrid	07	48	clear
Moscow	07	32	clear
New York	07	19	clear
Paris	08	48	clear
Rome	08	48	clear
Sydney	04	39	rain
Tokyo	04	39	rain
Toronto	04	39	rain
Zurich	07	48	rain

Agreement reported on Shoah compensation fund

By MARILYN HENRY

BERN, SWITZERLAND — After two days of meetings, officials of the World Jewish Congress, the gypsy community and the Swiss Foreign Ministry were believed to have reached a draft agreement on a structure for a Holocaust compensation fund. The details, however, were shrouded in secrecy.

A day earlier, a WJC official,

Marum Stern, had given the impression that a dramatic announcement on the fund was imminent.

Swiss officials, however, refused to divulge details yesterday. WJC officials left Bern directly after the meetings and did not meet with reporters.

The draft agreement was being discussed late yesterday by the Swiss Federal Council, and no further meetings with Jewish officials

had been scheduled, said Rolf Bloch, head of the Swiss Jewish community.

The fund, which will be run by a "foundation," was started with an initial contribution of SF100 million from the three major Swiss banks, who then turned the responsibility for the fund over to the Swiss government. An association representing Swiss businesses also has pledged to contribute.

"It will be a Swiss foundation under Swiss law," Bloch told reporters yesterday.

The Swiss government "had to give their blessing in their way," he said at the Swiss Federal Archives, where historians conducted a day-long seminar reviewing the current research on looted property and dormant assets.

Three Holocaust survivors from New York, who are plaintiffs in

one of the three class-action lawsuits against the Swiss banks, also attended the seminar.

Sylvia Hinde Fekete, a Belgian-born resident of Brooklyn, said her father, a diamond dealer, died in Auschwitz "because Swiss authorities discriminated" against him.

Fekete said she was not making a claim against the Swiss banks. Instead, she said, "I am making a financial claim against the Swiss

government for killing my father."

Swiss officials are said to have insisted that they retain control over the fund, although the government has yet to announce whether it will contribute. Polls also show that Swiss taxpayers are reluctant to contribute.

It is also believed that the Jewish and gypsy representatives balked at sharing the limited number of slots on the foundation's executive board.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the eight of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 5, 8, 19, 21, 24 and 27 and the additional number was 3.

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Disgruntled settlers forming new group

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A group of settlement residents who are disgruntled with the government's policies are to hold a demonstration tonight outside the prime minister's residence, after launching a new activist organization.

The group, called the Committee for Judea, Samaria and Gaza Settlements, said the demonstration will "symbolize the fact that we will take to the streets" if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not begin fulfilling his campaign promises, said committee spokeswoman Eve Haron. "We voted for a way, not for an individual."

According to Shimon Golan, one of the committee's founding members, the settlers are displeased with the government's policies and feel that not enough is being done to protect their interests. He said the committee's goal is to strengthen the government against US and Palestinian pressures.

Golan stressed that the new organization is not competing with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, but seeks to complement its work.

"The Council of Jewish Communities does excellent work and is extremely successful in lobbying in the Knesset and government ministries," he said.

Golan, outlining some of the organization's aims, said that the Jewish community in Hebron had to be further developed.

According to Haron, many settlers have expressed their disappointment in Netanyahu and want him to fulfill the promises he made during last year's election campaign.

"We don't want to bring the government down, but we can't stand silently," she said. "No terrorists are being extradited, the [Palestinian] Covenant has not been amended and we want to prevent the next pullback, the third one, that relates to the creation of a Palestinian state."

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